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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Rota shipping resumes

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The shipment of basic goods to Rota is beginning to normalize, with supplies already arriving at the CNMI's southernmost island.

A representative of Sinapalo Safeway told *Saipan Tribune* that they have received their shipment through GPPC, where they split the cost of shipment with the private company.

"Things are going back to normal and a small cargo boat from GPPC transported 10,000 kbs of basic goods

See ROTA on Page 4

Rule on minimum salary for OT exemption now out

The U.S. Department of Labor finally issued last March 7 its long-awaited proposed rule that would increase the minimum salary threshold to qualify for exemption from the overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act—from their current level of $455 per week ($23,660 annually) to $679 per week

See RULE on Page 4

MVA may soon move

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority may soon have its own permanent building after it secured a property on the grounds of the CNMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan.

MVA managing director Christopher Attao Concepcion

» **MVA secures property in Garapan**

disclosed during the MVA board meeting last Tuesday that the CNMI Museum board of governors voted last Friday to give MVA a portion of its 8,867-square-meter lot where the MVA could build a permanent site.

With the granting of title to the property, a memorandum of understanding is needed to be signed between MVA and the CNMI Museum, said Concepcion, who is also chairman of the museum board.

He said the property is large and MVA only needs a small

See MVA on Page 4

Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors chair Marian Aldan-Pierce presides over a meeting last Tuesday, during which MVA managing director Christopher Attao Concepcion announced that a piece of land in Garapan has been secured for a future MVA building.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

$210M FEMA reimbursement seen

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Torres administration expects its reimbursement request with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Super Typhoon Yutu to reach $210 million.

The amount, however, is an estimate and it could be amended once all the data of the costs for Yutu are added up.

The reimbursement amount is also subject to a review of a disbursement committee that handles disaster recovery funds.

See FEMA on Page 4

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Much of the world has grounded the Boeing jetliner involved in the Ethiopian Airlines crash.
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The federal government has charged 50 in a widespread US college admissions scam.
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The most senior Catholic convicted of child sex abuse is sentenced to six years in prison.
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Local

Defense: No clear allegation to charge man of drug trafficking

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The court-appointed lawyer of Marco Castro, who is being charged with trafficking of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance, says the case against her client should be dismissed as that there is no clear allegation against him.

During the bail hearing yesterday, Office of the Public Defender's Jean Nogues moved for the court to dismiss the case against Castro, 29, without prejudice. She cited *Commonwealth v. Inos* that presiding judge Robert Naraja dismissed without prejudice due to an improper charging document.

Dismissed without prejudice means the case can be refiled by the government.

Castro is charged with possession and trafficking of methamphetamine or "ice."

Nogues told the court that, after going through the declaration of probable cause, the document does not state clearly that Castro actually had drugs on him or whether he was selling them or no. As far as the document is concerned, Castro was just there.

Nogue said that the document merely states that during a "buy-walk" operation, Castro walked into a car and then walked out; there was no mention of an actual transaction.

Chester Hinds, representing the government, said that aside from the declaration of probable cause being signed by a judge, the document does indicate that Castro was involved in trafficking of a controlled substance but in a previous probable cause affidavit. Hinds said that this was a reissuance of an arrest warrant based off of the same previous probable cause affidavit.

Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan said that although both parties made good arguments, he will still issue a bail order and set a preliminary hearing date for Castro.

Bogdan added that defense's argument would be a good argument during the preliminary hearing.

Bogdan maintained the cash bail of $100,000 despite Nogues arguing that the amount is over the top and violates an affordable bail provision.

Bogdan said that the defense is welcome to file a motion for bail modification.

Castro's preliminary hearing is set for March 20 at 9am and he is also set for an arraignment on April 8 at 9am.

Castro was arrested after a "buy-walk" operation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Task Force in 2018.

Castro, along with his girlfriend Lynesia Palacios, were arrested for being allegedly involved in selling over $230 worth of methamphetamine to a cooperating source of the task force.

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$100K bail for woman in 'ice' case

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A bail of $100,000 was imposed on a woman who was allegedly involved in a methamphetamine or "ice" transaction with her boyfriend.

Lynesia Dela Cruz Palacios, 25, was brought before Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan yesterday for a bail hearing.

Palacios is charged with trafficking of a controlled substance commonly known as "ice" following a sting operation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Task Force back in 2018.

During the bail hearing, Palacios was not appointed a lawyer yet because her boyfriend, Marco Castro, was appointed a lawyer from the Public Defender's Office so she could not be represented by the PDO due to conflict of interest.

Bogdan said the court has a list of lawyers it can appoint but could not appoint her one on the spot.

Bogdan maintained the $100,000 bail and set a date for her preliminary hearing.

Palacios is set for a preliminary hearing on March 20 at 9am and is set for an arraignment on April 8 at 9am.

According to the declaration of probable cause, Palacios and her boyfriend allegedly sold over $200 worth of methamphetamine to a cooperating source of the task force.

Court documents imply that Palacios was in both sting operations conducted in January 2018.

Audio recording of a phone conversation between Palacios and the cooperating source allegedly recorded Palacios stating a place for the transaction and how much the "ice" would cost.

The cooperating source even told DETF officers that Palacios was in the vehicle for the transaction and was the one who showed him the drugs before he paid her boyfriend, Castro, for the substance.

Rotary to host dealer training

Faced with a lack of dealers for Las Vegas Night, the Rotary Club of Saipan itself would be hosting a dealer training for the fundraiser.

Rotary Club of Saipan president Greg Borja noted Tuesday that the club is looking to host a dealer training session for their members and the volunteers.

The Las Vegas Night is scheduled on March 30, 2019.

"Anybody who wants to volunteer for the event and be a dealer, this is an opportunity to get training and deal blackjack, Texas hold 'em poker, and more games," he said.

Craps might be a bit trickier since the complications of the game makes dealing it more challenging.

"We do have some Rotarians who have experience with roulette already, so they would be on hand," he said.

Borja noted that the Rotary finally got a response from casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for the Las Vegas Night event, saying that it would be "assisting" the club with the event as much as possible. However, IPI did not commit to lending dealers, as with previous years.

"They would help us mostly with technical assistance [such as] dealing," Borja said. He added that IPI would be providing the training as well as providing support with dealing craps and other games that are unfamiliar to the Rotarians.

"They said they are willing to assist but, right now, [they] will be able to provide minimal support for now. Again, they are willing to try and help us out in the best way that they can," Borja said.

The training is tentatively set for March 23, 2019.

For those interested in volunteering for the Las Vegas Night, email the club at rotarysaipan@gmail.com. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Judge dismisses ex-lawmaker's medical malpractice suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Citing a failure to serve a copy of the summons and complaint to the Office of the Attorney General, the Superior Court dismissed yesterday a medical malpractice lawsuit filed by former Saipan lawmaker Ana S. Teregeyo.

In dismissing the suit without prejudice, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho said Teregeyo filed the complaint pro se or without a lawyer on May 9, 2016, and named the CNMI government as a defendant.

Camacho

Dismissal with prejudice allows the former lawmaker to refile the lawsuit.

Camacho said Teregeyo's declaration shows that the summons and complaint were delivered to Bernie Itibus at the Commonwealth Health Center Office of the Chief Executive Officer on Navy Hill on May 9.

However, the judge noted, the Commonwealth Health Center is not a named a defendant in this case.

Camacho said the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure is very clear: When suing the CNMI government, a copy of the summons and complaint must be delivered to the OAG.

"Here, neither the attorney general, his clerical staff, nor any assistant attorney general were served with a copy of the summons and complaint at the Office of the Attorney General," Camacho pointed out.

Teregeyo is suing the CNMI government for negligence arising from the same allegations in her 2nd amended complaint when her left knee and leg became infected, necessitating five more surgeries and an artificial knee replacement.

Teregeyo alleged that, as a result of gross negligence, she almost lost her leg. She claimed that only because she had the means to get off island and obtain professional care was her leg saved.

The former lawmaker said what happened to her at CHC should never happen to anyone.

Teregeyo asked the court to issue a default judgment against the government.

In response, the government, through the OAG, opposed the request for entry of default judgment and asked the court to dismiss the complaint.

At the hearing last July 31, Teregeyo appeared without counsel. OAG Civil Division chief Christopher Timmons argued for the government.

In his order yesterday, Camacho said Teregeyo failed to show any attempts to serve the OAG or circumstances that prevented her from serving the CNMI government in a timely manner.

Camacho said Teregeyo had ample time to discover the proper party to serve after incorrectly serving CHCC.

In the footnote of his order, the judge said there are ambiguities in the plaintiff's allegations of facts that hamper the full determination of whether she filed within the two-year statute of limitations.

Therefore, Camacho said, the court cannot adequately apply the alleged facts to determine whether the statute of limitation has passed.

"Without more, the court cannot dismiss this action with prejudice," he said.

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ROTA

From Page 1

to Rota," the Safeway representative said in a telephone conversation. "We also get some of our commodities from Guam by using a small fishing boat."

This upbeat sentiment was echoed by Rota Legislative Delegation chair Paul A. Manglona, who affirmed the resumption of shipping services to the island through various community partners.

"Star Marianas Air has been helpful in accommodating cargoes for Rota," he said. He conceded, though, that airflown goods are not cheap.

With the opening of Rota's East Harbor for shallow draft vessels that have roll on/roll off loading/unloading operations, several shipping schedules are already confirmed beginning this week.

Manglona said that the air freight and the opening of the East Harbor was a big help in alleviating the crisis.

Delegation vice chair Rep. Donald Manglona said that he also talked to Friendship Forwarders-Friendship Enterprises Inc. "From my understanding, the first of three voyages is set to sail [on Wednesday]."

"Two [more] voyages are set to sail next week. I am working with Friendship Forwarders to assist our people in getting their products down to Rota," he added.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority approved the use of Rota's East Harbor by shallow draft shipping vessels after Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig gave his consent.

Atalig, in a letter to GPPC's John Reyes last week, authorized GPPC Inc. to use the East Dock for loading and unloading services. "As we discussed in our telephone conversations, I am authorizing GPPC to engage with the above referenced activities."

"As we all know, we have issues with the West Dock. I am sure that the problems will be solved very soon. In the meantime, the East Dock is available for your activities temporarily," Atalig added in his letter.

Friendship Forwarders sales manager Noel C. Masongsong, in a letter to the delegation, said their vessel is capable of unloading goods through roll on/roll off system, whict no longer needs the use of a dock crane.

Star Marianas president Shaun Christian earlier explained that Rota's lack of shipping services is exacerbated by its dock crane not being operable.

That mean Star Marianas planes have to carry the cargo to Rota, affecting the availability of passenger airline seats going to the island.

"Frozen meats and fresh produce are almost sent always via air cargo because shipping schedule is not regular and reliable. So, it gets pretty expensive," said Manglona.

Manglona earlier asked Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to declare a state of significant emergency on Rota due to a brief shortage of food products and other basic commodities that could threaten public health and safety.

A delegation resolution he introduced a few weeks ago highlighted the crisis and prompted Star Marianas Air to transport 5,000 lbs of urgently needed goods to Rota from Saipan.

Harvest, Lucky Store, Sunshine Variety Shop, and Three Kings Market are some of the other shops on Rota that sell basic commodities.

Rota experienced consecutive weather disturbances, including Typhoon Mangkhut that devastated the island in September last year.

RULE

From Page 1

($35,308 annually).

The proposed rule would also raise the threshold for "highly-compensated employees" from $100,000 annually to $147,414 per year.

It is anticipated that the changes will extend overtime coverage to approximately one million U.S. workers. The proposed rule will be subject to a period of public comment and is anticipated to take effect in January 2020.

The prior rule had been in place since 2004. In May 2016, the Obama administration sought to increase the threshold to $913 per week ($47,476 annually), but the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas granted an injunction prohibiting implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule on the grounds that the USDOL had exceeded its rulemaking authority.

The USDOL initially appealed the decision, but agreed to hold it in abeyance while vowing to reconsider the rule.

The USDOL arrived at the $679 per week amount by using the same methodology used in setting the threshold in 2004: aligning it to the 20th percentile of earnings of full-time salaried workers in the lowest-wage census region (then, and now, the South) and in the retail sector.

Similarly, the USDOL proposed the $147,414 threshold for highly-compensated employees by aligning it with the 90th percentile of full-time salaried workers nationally.

These amounts were also informed by over 200,000 comments received by the USDOL and listening sessions conducted by the USDOL in all five wage and hour regions throughout the country.

In sum, the department believes that the proposed standard salary level would help employers identify a large group of employees who perform nonexempt duties, would aid in identifying bona fide (executive, administrative and professional) employees, and would address the legal concerns that led to the invalidation of the salary level set in the 2016 final rule.

The USDOL considered, but rejected, setting different salary threshold levels for executive, administrative, and professional employees. The USDOL also rejected setting multiple salary levels based on region, industry, or employer size. Finally, the USDOL rejected a return to the "long" and "short" tests that had been in place prior to the 2004 revisions for determining exempt status.

Under the proposed rule, the salary threshold will not be static but will instead be subject to periodic increases every four years following a public notice-and-comment period on the proposed increase. The USDOL derived its authority in this regard from the U.S. Congress' directive to define and delimit the overtime and minimum wage exemptions "from time to time."

The proposed rule includes a number of other changes of which employers should be aware. First, employers will be permitted to calculate certain nondiscretionary bonuses (such as those tied to productivity and profitability) and incentive payments like commissions that are paid annually or more frequently toward up to 10 percent of an employee's salary for purposes of determining whether the threshold is met. The reason for this provision is the USDOL's recognition that traditionally exempt employees may derive a significant portion of their annual compensation from sources other than base salary.

Second, the proposed rule would permit employers to make a final "catch-up" payment within one pay period after the end of each 52-week period to bring an employee's compensation up to the required level. Specifically, the rule would allow an employer to pay an employee 90 percent of the salary level ($611.10 per week) and, if at the end of the 52-week period the salary paid plus the nondiscretionary bonuses and incentive payments (including commissions) paid does not equal the standard salary level for 52 weeks ($35,308), the employer would have one pay period to make up for the shortfall (up to 10 percent of the standard salary level, or $3,530.80).

Third, the proposed rule also contemplates special salary thresholds being applied in Puerto Rico ($455 per week), the Virgin Islands (same), Guam (same), the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (same), and American Samoa ($380 per week). These changes are based on the current economic climate in each of those jurisdictions.

Finally, the proposed rule would provide a special weekly "base rate" for employers in the motion picture producing industry of $1,036 per week (or a proportionate amount based on the number of days worked). This exception has been in place since 1953 to address circumstances where an employee works less than a full workweek and is paid a daily base rate that would yield the weekly base rate if six days were worked.

As before this announcement, employers should be aware that simply paying the new minimum salary threshold is not enough for an employee to qualify for exemption. The proposed rule did not affect the "duties tests." Accordingly, to qualify for exemption, employees must still perform as their "primary duty," duties identified as exempt under the executive, administrative, or professional exemptions. The proposed rule also did not change the mechanics of the "salary basis test." Thus, subject to limited exceptions, in each pay period, the employee must receive at least the minimum salary, which cannot be subject to reduction because of variations in the quality or quantity of work performed.

Despite the importance of the announcement, it may not require any adjustment to payroll practices for employers operating in jurisdictions with higher minimum salary thresholds imposed by state law. Employers in New York, for instance, cannot treat an employee as exempt from the overtime provisions of the New York Labor Law unless the employee meets the applicable duties test and is paid between $832-$1,125 per week, depending on the size of the employer and its location. Similarly, employers in California must ensure that employees perform exempt duties and are paid, on a salary basis, between $45,760 per year (for those with 25 employees or less) and $49,920 per year (for those with 26 or more employees).

As always, employers should periodically review the exemption classification of their employees to ensure compliance with applicable federal, state or local law. ***(www.jdsupra.com)***

MVA

From Page 1

portion for its future building.

Concepcion said they're working with an in-house architect to come up with a design that would complement with the building that's already there.

"I'm pretty sure that requires a certain land survey so we can draw our borders and put or assign a lot number and things like that," he said.

Concepcion said the MVA has had no permanent home for 43 years now. MVA currently leases an office building in San Jose/Oleai.

MVA board director Cinta Kaipat underscored the need to build a permanent structure for MVA with a design that will reflect the CNMI's culture.

Concepcion agreed, saying that is the plan.

FEMA

From Page 1

FEMA is the one that handles the federal assistance request and the U.S. Congress would get involved with the funding if there's a need.

The CNMI government has upfronted the cost of the recovery efforts—from cleanup and debris removal to public utility repairs.

As of mid-January this year, FEMA had already spent $21 million for individuals who qualified for federal assistance.

Virginia Villagomez, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' authorized representative and the special assistant for the Office of Management and Budget, told the members of the House Ways and Means Committee that, as of Tuesday the government's obligations and expenditures for Yutu is now at $74.9 million.

"$15.1 million is considered as expense while $59.8 million remains an open obligation. To date, there is an excess of $79 million that have been awarded by FEMA for Yutu. Of that alone, $70.9 million is for power restoration," Villagomez said.

Aside from power restoration—including the installation of new concrete power poles—the CNMI's other projects for its recovery efforts are construction and repairs of schools, government buildings, the Northern Marianas College, and private homes. That could bring the total amount to the $210 million mark.

"Whatever the final number would be, in our original submission for federal assistance, we submitted $210 million. That's what we anticipated. As of yesterday, [Yutu cost] went up to $164 million and that has not included [the Public School System] and other autonomous agencies," said Villagomez.

Acting Finance secretary David Atalig, who also submitted a report to the governor that the CNMI expects a budget shortfall of 22 percent this fiscal year, said he has already seen the Yutu-related payables.

"But I don't know which is disaster-related or not. I just know the payables are a large amount. We are cash-strapped, since we spent so much…for disaster recovery," he said.

He said the CNMI government expects a good amount of FEMA reimbursements by April 20 while another batch would come in by June 30.

"We are waiting for those reimbursements to come in so we can pay our vendors. I look at it as a general fund. So with these reimbursements coming in, it would allow us to take care of our current payables, which would also ensure that our settlement and payrolls will not get affected," added Atalig.

The Ways and Means Committee chair, Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), told *Saipan Tribune* that the FEMA reimbursements would help the CNMI government in paying its typhoon recovery obligations.

"At today's hearing, we were informed that FEMA reimbursements and/or drawdowns will be reviewed through a disbursement committee at the federal level because they exceeded the $100-million mark," said Blanco. "Such drawdowns will certainly infuse cash into the government's coffers and will bring our payables to current."

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chairman, told *Saipan Tribune* in an earlier interview that the government has no choice but to upfront the cost for recovery efforts.

"It is all about documentation and I have the confidence in the administration and other responsible entities in the CNMI to document those. It appears that the government is…paying attention to the expenses closely because of all that has happened," said Hofschneider.

"We shall take into consideration the CNMI government's responsibility to front the money for the recovery. FEMA money it is not overnight. There's a process and qualifications to do that."

Problematic language in cannabis law stymies commission

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Certain language in the companion bill of the marijuana law in the CNMI is stopping the CNMI Cannabis Commission from getting organized in order to formulate the implementing rules and regulations of the new industry.

In Tuesday's meeting, commissioner Matt Deleon Guerrero informed the House Cannabis Committee that some of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' line-item vetoes in the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018, or Public Law 20-66, must first be addressed.

"We have yet to get organized. There's some critical areas that would not allow us to hold our organizational session that would initiate the clock for the promulgation for the final regulations for implementing this," Matt Deleon Guerrero said. "Without the alterations on this [law], the promulgations and regulations would not necessarily be fully done in a matter of having all the cards on the table and full clarity as to what the law would require and the law would wish for."

Deleon Guerrero said the fee structure is another one of those contentious issues. In his line item veto, Torres had said that the $5 annual registration fee per person under P.L. 20-66 is insufficient; it was raised to $25 per person in H.B. 21-13.

Deleon Guerrero added the long-term viability of the industry is another substantial amendment that is necessary, particularly the five-year residency requirement prior to being eligible to receive a license.

"Under the current language, the limit as the date of reference…would [exclude] a large portion of otherwise eligible residents from being able to enter the industry," he said.

Language requiring commission members to not be government employees is another issue. "The commissioners retaining government employment, before they resign, they need to have full-time commission job. Money is an issue. I'm not a government employee but four out of the five commissioners are CNMI government employees."

"And in our conversations with legal counsels—both the Legislature and the Executive Branch—the language prohibits certain government employees from continuing employment once appointed to the commission. Which would require them to quit and that won't give them any means for income."

The bill intended to address these concerns that Torres raised when P.L. 20-66 was enacted last year has already been introduced in the House of Representatives as House Bill 21-13.

House Cannabis Committee chair Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) has already asked the commissioners to comment on the bill so her committee could come out with a report on H.B. 21-13. That report would then be presented to House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao, who would then put H.B. 21-13 on the calendar for the entire House to vote on.

Nadine Deleon Guerrero (Saipan), Valentino Taisacan Jr. (Northern Islands), Lawrence Duponcheel (Tinian), and Thomas Songsong (Rota) are the commission's other members.

ON MISSING DPS INTERNAL AFFAIRS FILES, AUDIO FILES

Kwon's request to compel prosecution to disclose all information is approved

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has granted Department of Public Safety officer Dixon Kwon's request for the Commonwealth to disclose all information in its possession about his arrest that could exonerate him because the court finds that the DPS Internal Affairs investigation report and audio recording contained exculpatory and impeachment evidence in his favor.

Exculpatory evidence refers to evidence favorable to the defendant in a criminal case that tends to exonerate him/her of guilt.

In the order by the Superior Court, it deemed the investigation's findings in Kwon's case to be generally in his favor because he was re-instated to regular police duty after a mere three-day suspension, and because Internal Affairs investigators could not recall any other finding regarding police misconduct during the motion hearing, and the only audio device that recorded the interviews during the investigation was destroyed and recordings were not retrieved.

"The court hereby finds that, since the Internal Affairs investigation that followed the police misconduct complaint produced evidence that is favorable to [Kwon], the favorable evidence should be disclosed," the order stated.

According to legal standard, suppression by the prosecution of evidence favorable to an accused upon request violates due process. Favorable evidence includes exculpatory and impeachment evidence.

An investigation by the DPS Internal Affairs Division was conducted after Kwon's brother, officer Norris Kwon, filed a police misconduct complaint with the DPS commissioner.

All files and audio recordings from the investigation are now missing or have been destroyed.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Dixon Kwon was sanctioned with administrative action for his involvement in the July 22, 2017, car crash incident.

The files regarding DPS' internal investigation into the case of Kwon was among several files that were misplaced when the DPS Internal Affairs Investigation Division relocated to its new office in 2017.

Police said Kwon was driving his Nissan car on July 22, 2017, when the vehicle ran off the road on As Gonno Highway and hit a tree, causing serious injuries to his passenger, Deedra Santos.

When the officers responded to the area, Dixon Kwon was not at the scene, but Santos was there. Dixon Kwon was an off-duty DUI officer at the time of the accident.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Kaeden Togawa! We love you and thank God for you everyday. We hope you enjoy your special day. Love from Mom, Dad, Dre and the rest of your family.

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One (1) Sales Manager
Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree with a major in Business Administration, Accounting or Management (may be foreign equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as a wholesale sales manager or distributer manager.
Duties: Reports directly to CEO or his designate. Manages and directs the company's day-to-day sales, marketing, and distribution operations. Assists corporate officers in planning, formulating, and implementing periodic modifications to the company's sales goals, marketing strategies, merchandising policies, and operational procedures. Manages and directs the company's sales and marketing in conformity and consistent with the company's sales policies and marketing strategies, monitors overall sales and marketing activities and manages contractual arrangements for import of merchandise, and manages inventory. Manages and monitors sales and marketing activities, sales reports, and other performance data to measure productivity, goal achievement, identify deficiencies, and implements corrective measures to ensure sales and profit targets are met while providing high-quality service to customers. Monitors compliance with company's operational budget, overall profitability of the company, and oversees compliance with legal requirements for its operations. Manages the stock and inventory requirements based on sales orders, inventory, and projected volume of sales. Supervises the purchase and procurement of merchandise, including import requirements with freight companies and government agencies. Assists the corporate officers with directing the development of new business prospects for the company, including conducting and overseeing feasibility analyses and cost assessments for expansion into new product lines and market areas, and directing the expansion of the company into viable new market. Manages the stock and inventory requirements based on sales orders, inventory, and projected volume of sales. Supervises the purchase and procurement of merchandise, including import requirements with freight companies and government agencies. Manages assembly and storing of products by workers, filling of orders, and distribution to customers according to sales orders. Prepares sales related personnel's work schedules, manages and directs their activities, provides staff training, and has authority to make recommendations regarding hiring, firing, and other personnel actions. Oversees various independent contractors and agents retained by the company to assist with its operations, such as shipping agents, transportation companies, and service contractors. Recommends overall sales and marketing plans for review and approval by CEO or his designee and implements/executes duly approved sales and marketing plans. Performs other managerial duties as may be assigned by CEO or his designee.

One (1) Senior Wholesale Sales Representative
Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Marketing (may be foreign educational equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as a Senior Wholesale Sales Representative, Sales and Marketing Representative, or Sales Representative for wholesaler.
Duties: Sells and markets company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Contacts regular and prospective retail merchants to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Answers customers' questions about products, prices, availability and product uses. Displays and/or demonstrates products and recommends products that meet customers' needs. Quotes prices, credit terms and delivery dates for purchase of company's products. Prepares and signs order forms and sales contracts, and collects payments from customers. Arranges for and delivers products to customers and ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Contacts customers after sales of merchandise to resolve any problems and provide on-going support. Plans, assembles and stocks product displays in retail stores or make recommendations to retailers regarding product displays and promotional programs. Assists Marketing Manager in identifying prospective customers, monitoring market conditions and monitoring competitors' products and prices.

One (1) Senior Sales and Marketing Representative
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree (may be foreign educational equivalent) and two years of experience as a Sales and Marketing Representative for a wholesale company with a minimum of 550 sales items.
Duties: Sells and markets company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Contacts regular and prospective customers to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Displays and/or demonstrates products and suggests products that meet customers' needs. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts. May sign purchase orders, and collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers. Assists Sales Manager in identifying prospective customers, monitoring market conditions and monitoring competitors' products and prices.

One (1) Wholesale Sales Representative
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree (any major and may be foreign educational equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as Wholesale Sales Representative or Sales Representative
Duties: Sells and markets company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Contacts regular and prospective retail merchants to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Displays and/or demonstrates products and recommends products that meet customers' needs. Answers customers' questions about products, prices, availability, and product uses. Quotes prices, credit terms, and delivery dates for purchase of company's products. Prepares and signs order forms and sales contracts, and collects payments from customers. Arranges for and delivers products to customers and ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Provides after sales support to resolve any problems and provide on-going support. Plans, assembles, stocks product displays in retail stores, checks stock levels, and makes recommendations to retailers regarding product displays, promotional programs, and reordering of merchandise.

One (1) Wholesale Marketing Representative
Minimum Qualifications: High School diploma (may be foreign educational equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as a Wholesale Marketing Representative or Sales Representative for Wholesaler.
Duties: Sells and markets company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Contacts regular retail merchants to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Studies market conditions and monitors competition to identify prospective customers. Displays and/or demonstrates products and recommends products that meet customers' needs. Answers customers' questions about products, prices, availability, and product uses. Quotes prices, credit terms, and delivery dates for purchase of company's products. Prepares and signs order forms and sales contracts, and collects payments from customers. Delivers products to customers and ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Provides after sales support to resolve any problems and provide on-going support. Plans, assembles, stocks product displays in retail stores, checks stock levels, and makes recommendations to retailers regarding product displays, promotional programs, and reordering of merchandise. Performs other related duties.

Two (2) Sales Representative
Minimum Qualifications: Associates degree (may be foreign equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as a sales representative for a wholesale company with a minimum of 550 sales items.
Duties: Sells company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Meets with customers in order to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts and may collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers.

Two (2) Product Demonstrator
Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma (may be foreign equivalent) and one (1) year of experience as a product demonstrator or merchandiser/product demonstrator.
Duties: Conducts product demonstrations, explains products to customers, and assists company in implementing advertising activities for company's products. Sets up props, demonstrates materials and supplies, arranges displays or demonstration areas for prospective customers, and assists in running sales promotions. Transports, assembles, and disassembles materials used in presentations. Prepares or alters presentation contents to target specific audiences. Prepares products and gives samples to customers to try/test. Provides product information and suggests specific product purchases to meet customers' needs, and assists in implementing advertising activities for the company's products. Sells products being promoted, delivers product to customers, and keeps records of sales. Contacts salesmen to replenish merchandise and re-stock store shelves to replenish products sold following product merchandising procedures. Performs other related duties.

One (1) Sales Consultant
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in marketing or marketing management (may be foreign educational equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as a Sales Consultant.
Duties: Sells and markets company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Contacts regular and prospective customers to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Displays and/or demonstrates products and suggests products that meet customers' needs. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts. May sign purchase orders and collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers. May do deliveries of merchandise to Customers when exigencies and circumstances require. Consults with customers after sale of products to resolve any issues and provide continuing support. Assists management in identifying prospective customers and monitoring competitors' products and prices. Performs other related duties.

One (1) Bookkeeper
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in Business Administration (any major) or Associate's degree in Accounting (degrees may be foreign equivalent), two (2) years of experience as bookkeeper, and one (1) year experience using QuickBooks or other accounting software program(s).
Duties: Records company's wholesale business transactions and retains all accounting records. Posts, verifies and reconciles accounts payables, accounts receivables, expenses, payroll and other ledger accounts. Prepares preliminary financial reports by collecting, analyzing and summarizing account information. Prepares payroll and payroll taxes and distributions to government. Prepares gross receipts tax returns. Documents business transactions and verifies purchase orders and other financial transactions in order to substantiate the transactions prior to settlement. Maintains and reconciles bank accounts. Uses QuickBooks accounting software program in performing job duties.

One (1) Graphic Artist
Minimum Qualifications: High School diploma (may be foreign equivalent); four (4) years of experience as a graphic artist; and one (1) year experience using Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Indesign software programs.
Duties: Designs and creates visual products to meet company's promotional needs, including designing and creating promotional displays, marketing brochures, signs and signage systems, packaging, logos, menus, website development, and other visual products. Formulates visual marketing campaign and overall design concepts for company to reach target markets. Applies critical thinking and problem solving analysis to various design concepts and approaches that can be utilized to attain the desired effect on the target market. Creates innovative design solutions utilizing knowledge of graphic design theory and methodologies in conjunction with current cultural trends, market demographics, cultural preferences, and seasonal shifts to achieve optimum market response. Produces and coordinates the execution of mock-up and final graphic design and artwork for the visual products. Uses Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Indesign software programs in performing job duties.

One (1) Office Clerk
Minimum Qualifications: High School diploma (may be foreign educational equivalent) and one (1) year of experience as an office clerk or administrative assistant or High School diploma (may be foreign educational equivalent) and completion of one (1) year administrative assistant training program or computer training program. Six months of experience using Quickkbooks, Peachtree or other accounting software program.
Duties: Maintains and updates filing, inventory, and database systems using a personal computer. Reviews files, records, and other documents to obtain information to respond to requests. Compiles, sorts, and files records of office activities, business transactions, and other activities. Computes and records financial data and other information and perform basic bookkeeping. Operates office equipment and troubleshoot problems involving office equipment such as computer hardware and software, photocopiers and scanners, facsimile machines, voice mail systems, and personal computers. Performs related duties. Uses accounting software program in performing job duties.

One (1) General Maintenance and Repair Worker
Minimum Qualifications: One (1) year vocational certificate in building systems mechanics (any field and may be foreign equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as a building systems mechanic (any field).
Duties: Maintenance and overall upkeep of the civil structures of the warehouse and the company's buildings. Maintenance and repair of facilities' plumbing and sewer systems; air conditioning systems including installations and upgrades; electrical systems including new connections and upgrades; office equipment such as computers, tablets, printers, copiers and telephones; maintenance and upkeep of the refrigeration equipment such as commercial beverage coolers; vehicles; and auxiliary generators. Performs other related duties as assigned by supervisor.

One (1) Assistant General Maintenance and Repair Worker
Minimum Qualification: One (1) year vocational certificate in building systems mechanics (any field and may be foreign equivalent).
Duties: Maintenance and repair of facilities' building systems including, but not limited to, electrical systems, including new connections and upgrades; air conditioning systems, including installations and upgrades; office equipment such as computers, tablets, printers, copiers and telephones; and maintenance and upkeep of the refrigeration equipment such as commercial beverage coolers, vehicles, and auxiliary generators. Performs other related duties as assigned by supervisor.

One (1) Sales/Delivery Driver
Minimum Qualification: Two (2) years as a Sales/Delivery Driver or sales associate.
Duties: Sells and delivers company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Writes customer orders and sales contracts according to company guidelines. Collects money from customers, make change, and records transactions on customer receipts. Records sales and delivery information on daily sales or delivery record. Listens to and resolves customers' complaints regarding products.

One (1) Driver/Sales Worker
Minimum Qualification: Two (2) years of experience as a Driver/Sales Worker or Deliveryman.
Duties: Takes customer orders and relays to Accounting Office for invoicing according to company guidelines. Assists in loading merchandise, according to customer orders and invoices, to company vehicle for delivery. Delivers company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Collects money from customers, makes change, and records transactions on customers' receipts. Accounts for and remits collections to Accounting Office. Records sales and delivery information on daily sales or delivery records. Listens to and resolves customers' complaints regarding products. Performs other related duties.

If interested, send resume to Western Sales Trading Company by email to jtorres@six7one.com or by fax at 670-322-9408.
Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three (3) days of hire.

Art-in-the-Park at the AMP

The American Memorial Park announced yesterday the 3rd annual Art-in-the-Park series. During the months of March and April, American Memorial Park is partnering with local artists and organizations to provide free art classes to the community. All ages are welcome to join us in creating amazing art!

■ March 23: Banana Painting, 9am – noon, Joy Rankin

■ March 30: Painted Pots, 9am – noon, Kimberly Mendiola

■ April 6: Wood painting with acrylic, 9am – noon, Meena Benavente

■ April 13: Blueprints (Cyanotype), 9am – noon, Erlinda Babauta

At the end of the art sessions, on April 20, artwork will be displayed at the Visitor Center for the public to enjoy.

Space is limited so register soon! To register for a class, visit the American Memorial Park Visitor Center, which is open daily from 9am to 4pm.

For questions contact education coordinator Nataline Kaneshi at 234-7207 or 234-2020, or email nkaneshi@pacifichistoricparks.org. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Weightlifting competition on Saipan

CNMI Weightlifting will hold a weightlifting competition on Saipan on May 18, 2019, at a time and place to be announced later. ***(PR)***

Volunteers sought for CK, Susupe cleanup

Volunteers are invited to join a community cleanup called "Beautify Our Villages" in Chalan Kanoa and Susupe this Saturday, March 16, 8am to 11am. Meet at Sugar Dock Beach. Trash bags, gloves, hand sanitizer, water, and refreshments will be provided. For more information contact the Office of Rep. John Paul Sablan at 664-8965 or the Office of Rep. Tina Sablan at 664-8829. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting today, March 14, 2019, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Class of 1981 reunion meeting

Attention to all Marianas High School Class of 1981 and off-island graduate(s) in Guam and the U.S. mainland that there will be a 1981 class reunion meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2019, starting at 6pm at the Tech-NIC Computer above Sherwin Paint across Bank of Hawaii on Middle Road. ***(PR)***

Register for NMC's spring semester

Northern Marianas College is reminding all individuals interested in furthering their education that they still have until March 23, 2019, to register for the upcoming spring semester.

■ Registration for ongoing and new students via Proa Portal: Ongoing until March 23, 2019

■ First day of classes: April 1, 2019

NMC will be also having a free information session on March 21, 2019, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the college's Olympio T. Borja Library. It is open to all prospective students and interested community members. Those who would like to apply for admission or register for classes can attend the info session.

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming spring 2019 semester or to apply for admission, contact NMC's Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-014

SADOG TASI PRIMARY SCREEN PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the attainment of a Primary Screen for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-014, Sadog Tasi Primary Screen Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 8, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

HANMI occupancy at 90 percent in February

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a 90.32-percent average occupancy rate among 11 member-hotels in February 2019.

The figure reflects a 6-percent decrease compared to February 2018.

Average room rates were higher than last year at $190.23 compared to $185.63 in February 2018.

A total of 55,394 of 62,370 available room nights sold in February 2019, compared to 71,976 of 75,685 available room nights sold over the same period last year. The reduced number of hotel rooms reflects the continued closure of hotel rooms damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu, as well as the closure of Mariana Resort & Spa on Oct. 1, 2018.

"On a positive note, February 2019 had the highest average room rates in HANMI history at $190.23 a night," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "However, arrivals are still sluggish and the closure of Marianas Resort, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, and Saipan World Resort affected results, so average occupancy dropped back to February 2012 levels. Overall, that means lower BRGT, hotel occupancy tax, and revenue."

Cavanagh added that the outlook for coming months is also mixed.

"We are looking forward to the resumption of T'way flights from Seoul, Incheon and the first of Skymark Airline flights from Japan later this month," said Cavanagh. "However, the Korean market this March is still low. At this time more than ever, it is critical to retain access to a visa-free China market, as Chinese visitors now comprise half of the Marianas' tourism industry. The challenges we face now are difficult, but to lose the China market would be catastrophic."

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects.

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical reports are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Saipan World Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan. ***(PR)***

CNMI Legislature recognizes Coast Guard officer

Capt. Christopher Chase, commander, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, accepted a joint resolution from the CNMI Legislature on Saipan on behalf of Lt. Christine Torres Igisomar, currently earning a master's degree in Human Resource Management at Marymount University in Arlington, VA, as part of the Coast Guard's Advanced Education program.

The recognition took place at the House chamber on Capital Hill on Wednesday, March 6, 2019.

The resolution, authored by Rep. Ivan Blanco, recognized Igisomar for her efforts in recruiting in the CNMI.

The family of Lt. Christine Torres Igisomar and Capt. Christopher Chase, commander, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, pose with members of the CNMI House of Representatives after accepting a joint resolution on her behalf at the House chamber on Capital Hill. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The family of Lt. Christine Torres Igisomar and Capt. Christopher Chase, commander, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, check out the joint resolution that was presented to Igisomar at the House chamber on Capital Hill. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After the closure of the Coast Guard's recruiting office in Guam in 2012, only one person from the CNMI joined the Coast Guard. She led two teams in September 2017 and May 2018, and a result, five have enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard, one is currently part of the College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative, and four have applied to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy's class of 2023.

Igisomar, a native of Saipan, is the first female from the CNMI to graduate from any U.S. Service Academy, and the first woman to be commissioned an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard. ***(PR)***

Ginin I Trongku Asta I Lamasa
Merel Schàpil Walawal Ngàli Lamaasa
From Tree to Table...
BREADFRUIT WORKSHOP
Attendees of the FREE workshop will learn more about:
• Commercialization: Harvesting and Value Added Processing
• Agroforestry/Food Forest • Hands-on Demonstrations in Making Snacks
• Food Security • Breadfruit Nutrition • Cooking
• Breadfruit for Animal Fodder • Entrepreneur Experiences
Saipan
Thursday, March 21, 2019
8:30am - 4:30pm
Kanoa Resort Hotel Seaside Hall
Tinian
Saturday, March 23, 2019
10:00am - 3:00pm
CREES Center for Agriculture
Rota
Date and Time
To Be Announced
To register (required), log on to crees.marianas.edu or contact
Robert Suzuki Jr., Joaquin Deleon Guerrero, or Polly Omechelang at 237-6840
USDA
WESTERN SARE
PAR
CDA
Commonwealth Development Authority
CREES
HAWAII HOMEGROWN FOOD NETWORK
GBHC
AGROFORESTRY NET
TREES OF LIFE, TREES FOR LIFE

Instagrammers brighten the Marianas, share their lifestyles

Building on its digital marketing and promotions efforts, the Marianas Visitors Authority has launched a Resident Instagrammer Campaign to leverage the influence of the social media platform.

In November 2018, the MVA began a monthlong search for candidates in Japan for the position of "Resident Instagrammer in Saipan," accepting applications from active individuals and artists willing to share their experiences in the Marianas.

The campaign involves selecting artists who post their work on Instagram and have at least 1,000 followers. Those selected will live in the Marianas for two months under the campaign, sharing their activities and daily life with their followers.

On Feb. 19, 2019, Instagrammer Ami Otsuka of Japan works on a mural in San Jose, Saipan, as the first of Marianas Visitors Authority's latest social media campaign. MVA

For the second part of the program, artists were sought to create new, eye-catching wall-paintings in public places throughout Saipan.

Nearly 250 people applied for the program.

The campaign is bringing new life to establishments in the Marianas, beginning with the Marianas kingfisher-inspired mural by Ami Ostuka on the MVA office building on San Jose, Saipan.

"We have many creative ideas on how to promote the Marianas in the Japan market, and this is just one of them," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Social media is a very powerful tool many destinations use to promote themselves. Having a Resident Instagrammer living in the Marianas and working to promote the Marianas is a cost-effective way of exposing our destination to the mass market. These popular Instagrammers have a sizable following in Japan and elsewhere. We welcome them to our home and ask our community to extend that warm island hospitality that the Marianas are so famous for."

Otsuka is joined by fellow artist Taiki Nagai and lifestyle bloggers Saori Ishikawa and Joji Idaka, who are posting their daily Marianas lifestyle activities. Ostuka recently finished as second mural featuring the official Marianas bird, the Marianas fruit dove, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport arrivals area and is now working on another mural at the Commonwealth Health Center. On March 12, Taiki started his first painting at the Garapan Fire Station.

The campaign is also being covered by a film crew from international advertising agency Dentsu Inc., which will provide three movies about the Resident Instagrammers for the MVA. ***(MVA)***

A Marianas fruit dove-inspired mural by Instagrammer and artist Ami Ostuka greets arriving passengers at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. MVA

MVA

A Marianas kingfisher-inspired mural by Instagrammer and artist Ami Ostuka adorns the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose, Saipan.

The U.S. Navy
INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE
in the Mariana Islands Training and Testing
Supplemental EIS/OEIS Public Involvement Process

Due to the effects of Typhoon Wutip, Navy officials postponed public meetings planned for Feb. 26-27, 2019. This notice announces the rescheduled public meetings and a 15-day extension of the comment period.

The U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing military readiness activities conducted within the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) EIS/OEIS Study Area. The draft supplement to the 2015 MITT Final EIS/OEIS supports ongoing and future activities conducted within the Study Area: at sea and on Farallon de Medinilla (FDM).

Public Involvement

The Navy welcomes your review and comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted at the public meetings, online at **www.MITT-EIS.com**, or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific
Attention: MITT SEIS/OEIS Project Manager
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

Comments must be postmarked or received online by April 2, 2019, Chamorro Standard Time, for consideration in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Open House Public Meetings

Arrive and submit comments anytime during the open house. No presentation or public oral comment session will be conducted.

TINIAN, Thursday, March 14, 2019
1 to 3:30 p.m.
Tinian Public Library
San Jose Village

ROTA, Friday, March 15, 2019
1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Mayor's Conference Hall
Songsong Village

SAIPAN, Monday, March 18, 2019
5 to 8 p.m.
Kanoa Resort Saipan
Seaside Hall
Beach Road in Susupe

GUAM , Tuesday, March 19, 2019
5 to 8 p.m.
University of Guam
Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building
Anthony Leon Guerrero Multi-Purpose Room 129
and Henry Sy Atrium

The draft document is available online at **www.MITT-EIS.com** or at the following public libraries: University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tinian Public Library, and Rota Public Library.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-19-2014

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

Submission/Closing Date: April 22, 2019 Time: 3:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019 THROUGH 2021

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Rd., San Jose, Saipan** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

U.S. District Court for the NMI's Drug Offender Re-entry Program participants Manuel A. Sablan, third from left, and Ryan Taitano Babauta show their certificate of completion during their graduation from DORE Tuesday afternoon. Next to Babauta is also DORE participant Roque Sablan Norita. District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy and DORE Program team members join in the photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two graduate from federal court drug rehab program

Two more persons graduated Tuesday from the federal court's Drug Offender Re-entry Program.

Ryan Taitano Babauta and Manuel Aldan Sablan became the fourth and fifth persons to graduate from the program.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy presented Babauta and Sablan with certificates of completion during the graduation ceremony held in the District Court Tuesday afternoon.

Manglona and DORE team members praised Babauta and Sablan during several DORE sessions for showing positive adjustments after being found compliant with DORE's conditions and requirements.

The DORE Program is a post-incarceration cooperative effort program of the U.S. District Court, U.S. Probation Office, Federal Public Defender, and U.S. Attorney's Office.

DORE provides treatment and sanction alternative to address re-integration into the community for non-violent, substance abuse offenders release from federal prison. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

OVR closed on Friday

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation offices will be closed for Professional Development Day on Friday, March 15, 2019. If there is an urgent matter that needs immediate attention, call 287-6538. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/VAO19-IFB-009

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 12, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"CONSTRUCTION FOR THE CNMI VETERANS CEMETARY EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT. A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT PACIFIC QUICK PRINT & POST, LOCATED IN MIDDLE ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN. A FEE WILL BE ASSESSED BY PACIFIC QUICK PRINT FOR COPIES OF THE IFB DOCUMENTS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS IFB MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **MR. ANTONY A. CAMACHO, DIRECTOR OF DPW/TSD** VIA FACSIMILE TO (670) 234-3547 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS 04:30 P.M., MARCH 26, 2019**. RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS.

A **PRE-BID CONFERENCE** IS SCHEDULED NO LATER THAN **09:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME, APRIL 02, 2019** AT THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM 1ST FLOOR, CAPITOL HILL, JUAN A. SABLAN MEMORIAL BUILDING, SAIPAN. THE PROSPOECTIVE BIDDERS ARE ENCOURAGE TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THE SITE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-008

ROUTE 34 (KAGMAN ROAD) REPAIR

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Route 34 (Kagman Road) Repair**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **February 28, 2019** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **March 19, 2019**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 28, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening**.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-008"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time April 5, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, April 5, 2019**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 5, 2019** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **April 16, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, April 20, 2019**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on April 5, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Two Hundred Forty (240) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Five Hundred (US$500.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

JOE A. TUDELA
Acting Director of Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Why did Ethiopian 302 fall from the sky?

Frequent flyers understand that air travel in the 21st century is inherently safe. Planes are sophisticated and accidents are anomalies. The last crash involving major loss of life on a U.S. passenger airline jet—Colgan Air Flight 3407, 50 dead—happened in 2009. That was the same year Capt. "Sully" Sullenberger of US Airways made a perfect landing in the Hudson River.

This is what's so concerning about Sunday's crash in Africa of an Ethiopian Airlines 737 Max jet—designed and built by Chicago-based Boeing. The mysterious incident calls into question the airworthiness of Boeing's newly redesigned plane, which is flown around the world. The Ethiopian 737 Max disappeared from radar six minutes after takeoff from Addis Ababa, just after the pilot reported trouble and requested permission to return to the airport. The plane plunged into the ground, killing all 157 people aboard.

Sunday's tragedy is the second cataclysmic accident in less than five months for the Boeing 737 Max, an advanced version of the company's workhorse single-aisle airplane. Last October, a 737 Max operated by Lion Air of Indonesia plummeted into the Java Sea, killing all 189 passengers and crew. In both the Lion and Ethiopian incidents, the pilots reported problems soon after departure, sought to return to the airport but didn't make it. The cause of the Ethiopian Airlines crash is under investigation. The weather was good, though flight data appeared to show the aircraft failed to maintain a steady rate of ascent—then crashed.

That said, the two crashes may stem from completely separate causes; early theories about air disasters are notoriously unreliable. But similarities between the two incidents provoked speculation on a possible problem with the computerized flight controls of the 737 Max. By Monday, carriers in China, Indonesia and elsewhere had grounded their 737 Max fleets, an unusual response given that major airline crashes aren't typically associated with fear of design flaws. What usually gets the blame is a one-off event, such as a pilot error, bad weather or foul play. As of Monday, carriers in the U.S., including American and Southwest, were keeping their 737 Max planes in operation.

While a final report on the Lion Air crash isn't completed, the most likely cause was related to a new safety feature designed to protect the plane from a mid-flight stall. If sensors or flight systems misinterpret data and pilots don't react swiftly, the plane can send itself into a nosedive. After the Lion Air crash, some U.S. pilots expressed concern that training to fly the 737 Max didn't emphasize the need to be aware of potential nose over-correction. According to The New York Times, Boeing has said the Lion Air pilots should have known how to manage an emergency situation, but Boeing is working on software upgrades.

Two new Boeing aircraft of the same sophisticated design. They crash under seemingly similar conditions—good weather included—in different parts of the world. Air travel is safe, yes, but what happened to Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302? The sooner the flying public understands, the better.

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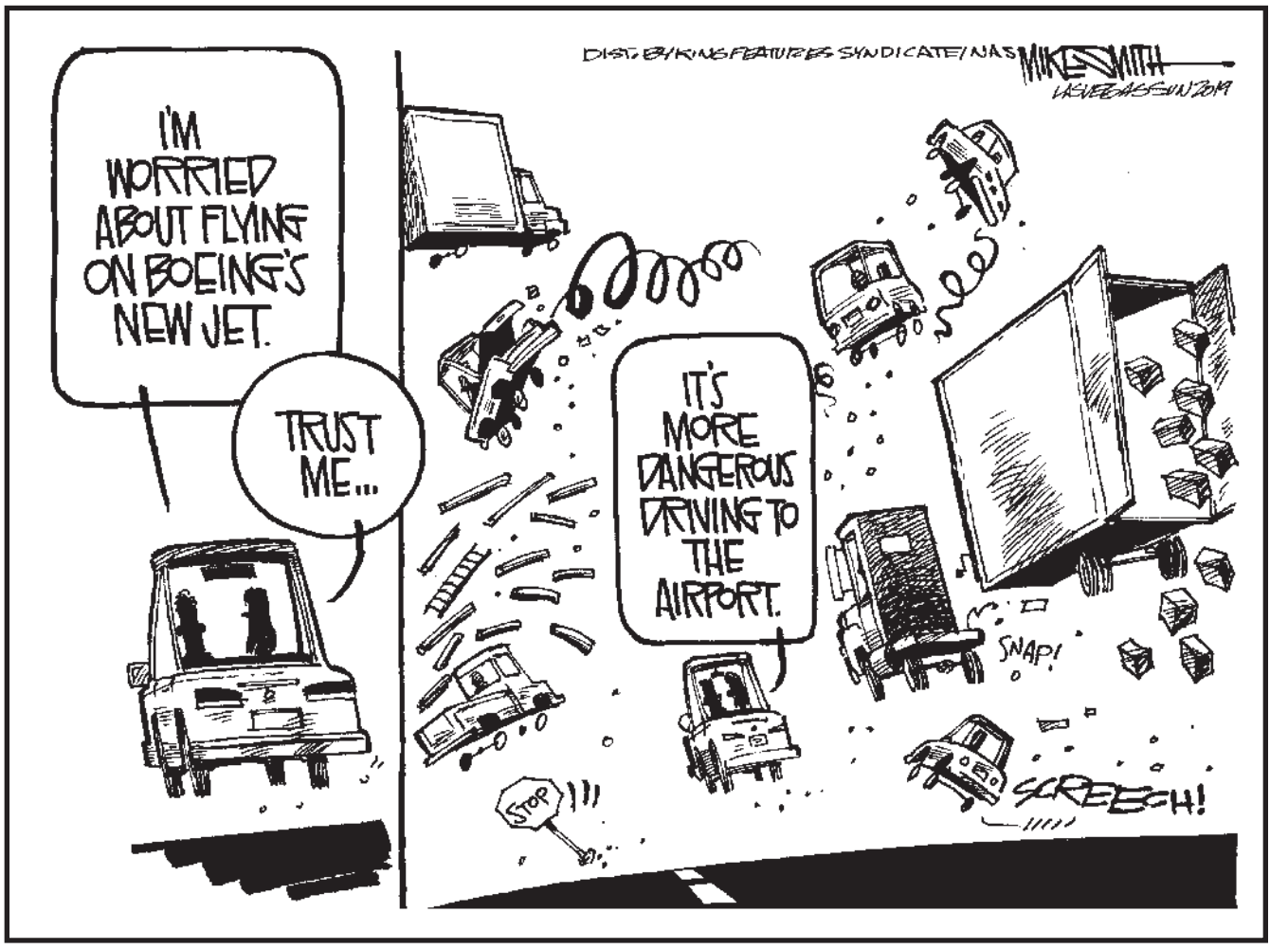


Old folks' home? No way

By BARRY GOLDMAN
Los Angeles Times

Barry Goldman is an arbitrator and mediator in Michigan. He is the author of The Science of Settlement.

My father died after just a few weeks in the old folks' home. I can't forget watching him walk around the place saying, "I don't remember a trial. Was there a trial or just this sentence?"

My mother took much longer. Toward the end, her vital signs were strong, but she was blind, incontinent, crippled and demented. She didn't recognize me or my sister. She couldn't walk or feed herself and needed 24-hour, one-to-one care. She couldn't remember not to try to get out of bed. Even with a caregiver there all the time, she somehow managed to sneak out three times and fall and break bones.

Walking out of the place one afternoon, I got into a conversation with a woman who had just visited her mother. She asked how my mother was doing. I was supposed to say: "She's doing pretty well under the circumstances." Instead, I said, "Personally, I'd rather be dead."

The woman nearly fell into my arms. At last neither of us had to keep up the charade. The whole thing was a ghastly nightmare, and we both knew it. I told her my mother had been in hospice but "graduated" back into the general population. My new friend said, "They thrive in hospice!"

Some people think old folks' homes are lovely. At the good ones you can make craft projects or play bingo. They bring kids in from the local junior high school to perform dance recitals. You can watch movies and participate in discussion groups led by enthusiastic women who AR-TI-CU-LATE carefully and speak s-l-o-w-l-y and LOUDLY for the benefit of the hearing impaired. Fine. If that appeals to you, you are welcome to move right in. Personally, I would rather be dead.

I know, I know. I am hearing impaired. I wear hearing aids. Don't tell me about respect for people with disabilities. Listen to what I'm saying.

I'm a baby boomer, a member of the great demographic bulge, the pig in the python. As a group, we are burying our parents, just as every generation has done since the beginning of time. But first, for many of us, there is this additional ordeal as they deteriorate. We learn how hard it can be to get off the bus even when you're well past your stop. We have a recurring conversation whenever two or more of us are in the same room for more than an hour.

Someone starts by describing a recent nightmare trip to the old folks' home. I say, "I'd rather be dead." Someone else proclaims, "Now you think you'd rather be dead, but when you get old and sick enough that you need to move into one of those places, you'll sing a different tune."

I bring up Christopher Hitchens. When the writer, critic and famous atheist was diagnosed with terminal cancer, Anderson Cooper asked him whether he might want to consider hedging his spiritual bets.

Hitchens said: "If that comes, it will be when I am very ill, when I am half demented, either by drugs or by pain, and I won't have control over what I say. I mention this in case you ever hear a rumor later on, because these things happen and the faithful love to spread these rumors. Well, I can't say that the entity that by then wouldn't be me wouldn't do such a pathetic thing. But I can tell you that not when I'm lucid, no. I can be quite sure of that."

I'm with Hitchens. If at some future time the man who lives in my body wants to move into an old folks' home and play bingo, you can be confident that person is no longer me. You do not need to pay any attention to him.

At this point I am told I have no right to make decisions for that person. He is entitled to make decisions for himself, and he may well disagree with the views I hold today just as I disagree with some of the views I held when I was a younger man.

It's true that opinions change. If you ask able-bodied people how they would feel if they lost both their legs, many say they would rather be dead. If you ask people who lost both their legs, after a while they say it's just fine. In fact, many say losing their legs was a net gain since it enabled them to get a better perspective on what's really important or find out who their real friends are.

But I'm quite sure about this one. I never want to go to one of those places. I would rather be dead. I'm adamant.

I'm not interested in telling other people what to do. If you believe that any sort of life is sacred, that every moment is precious no matter what, fine. I disagree. I think there are plenty of things worse than death. And I think it's fair to propose that I won't make decisions for you if you don't make them for me.

The problem is, short of committing suicide later this afternoon, I don't know how to assure that my wishes will be honored. I filled out all the forms my attorney gave me when I wrote my will. I discussed my views with my wife and family, but there doesn't appear to be a mechanism for people like me.

I'm afraid I'll be sentenced to infantilization and humiliation, like my father, or to years of fearful confusion, like my mother—without a trial.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Only legislation, not litigation, can fix our immigration challenges

By CRISTOBAL RAMÓN and THERESA CARDINAL BROWN
CQ-ROLL CALL

Last month, the American Civil Liberties Union sued the Trump administration over its new requirement that asylum seekers remain in Mexico while their claims are processed in the United States. With advocates and the administration repeatedly turning to the courts to resolve our nation's immigration challenges, you could be forgiven if this news made you feel like Bill Murray's character in the film "Groundhog Day."

But these developments are anything but funny. The constant litigation has weakened our capacity to pursue meaningful immigration legislation through compromise, while rolling the dice on the fates of millions of immigrants themselves.

Just look at the multiple fronts in the legal battles between the administration and immigration advocates.

Federal district courts have issued nationwide injunctions against President Donald Trump's decisions to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and Temporary Protected Status for several countries, keeping these programs on temporary lifelines. Federal courts have also repeatedly rejected the Trump administration's efforts to claw back funding for Department of Justice programs from cities and counties with so-called sanctuary laws. The administration has lost several legal fights over its family separation policy and its efforts to limit access to asylum protections at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Finally, the Supreme Court ended nearly a year's worth of litigation against Trump's travel ban, leaving its latest version intact, much to the consternation of advocates who fought against its initial implementation in January 2017. This case is the only one to reach the Supreme Court, showing how the judicial route can keep immigration policies in limbo for years as cases wind through the federal court system.

Amid it all, the administration and advocates have largely ignored the body charged with actually governing immigration: Congress. As the branch of the U.S. government tasked with writing our nation's laws, Congress should be the place where different sides debate, advocate and hopefully advance permanent measures to fix our broken immigration system.

Unfortunately, Congress has repeatedly failed to live up to this responsibility. Rather than acting, lawmakers have allowed partisan polarization and maneuvering over immigration to undermine broader efforts. It's little surprise then that advocates and successive administrations alike have looked to other avenues, like executive action and the courts, to resolve our immigration problems.

And Congress has felt little pressure to intervene. Rather than providing clarity for immigrants and their communities through consensus-driven legislative solutions, each legal victory launches a new round of politicized appeals that threaten trust in the judicial branch as an impartial arbiter of law.

These points haven't been lost on the nation's judiciary. Last November, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote, "We do not have Obama judges or Trump judges, Bush judges or Clinton judges. What we have is an extraordinary group of dedicated judges doing their level best to do equal right to those appearing before them."

In his decision last July on the legality of California's sanctuary policies, U.S. District Judge John A. Mendez wrote, "This court joins the ever-growing chorus of federal judges in urging our elected officials to set aside the partisan and polarizing politics dominating the current immigration debate and work in a cooperative and bipartisan fashion toward drafting and passing legislation that addresses this critical political issue. Our nation deserves it. Our constitution demands it."

Mendez's call to action applies to every aspect of a polarized immigration debate that undermines efforts to develop viable long-term solutions through consensus and compromise.

To be clear, we're not suggesting that litigation has no place in shaping our nation's immigration laws and policies. Plaintiffs should have the right to challenge egregious practices or laws that cause harm and require legal intervention. The Trump administration's family separation policy, which had moral and logistical deficiencies in deterring undocumented immigration, serves as an example.

Nevertheless, litigation should not be a substitute for legislation to fix our nation's immigration system, especially when court decisions can set legal precedents that further confound and counter policy goals. While developing legislation through compromise may not generate the same rush as scoring a legal victory over an ideological opponent, it is a healthier and more inclusive way to work through our serious immigration issues.

Cristobal Ramon is an immigration policy analyst at the Bipartisan Policy Center. Theresa Cardinal Brown is director of immigration and cross-border policy at BPC and served in the Department of Homeland Security during the George W. Bush and Obama administrations.

RUSSIAN THREAT!
BY JOE "WHEN BESTIES ATTACK!" FOURNIER
VLADIMIR PUTIN EXPLAINS
RUSSIA WARNS THE UNITED STATES NOT TO PLACE MISSILES IN EUROPE UNLESS IT WANTS A CUBAN MISSILE-STYLE CRISIS!
THIS WARNING SHOULD STAND AS DEFINITIVE PROOF THAT PRESIDENT TRUMP IS HIS OWN MAN, HIS OWN LEADER, AND NOT SOME PUPPET CONTROLLED BY ME!
ALRIGHT?
S'ALRIGHT!
S'ALRIGHT?
S'ALRIGHT!
S'ALRIGHT?
S'ALRIGHT!
joe@joefournierstudios.com

Why the past matters

Although time seems to go much faster as we age, in order to assure the best possible future, it is important to remember—and to learn from—our past. Fortunately, we have many books, films and our own experiences to remind us (if we want to be reminded).

A good example to help us remember is the movie, "Vice," which was nominated for several Oscars (and won for best makeup). While my contemporaries and I clearly remember Vice President Dick Cheney practically running our country and conspiring to get the U.S. into phony wars, along with opening Guantanamo and advocating torture, young people today need to be reminded of the perils of misinformation.

The old saying "history repeats itself" has been quoted in various forms by many famous people. Perhaps 19th-century German philosopher Karl Marx's version is most appropriate now: History repeats itself, first as tragedy, then as farce. Think two World Wars, the Holocaust, massive hurricanes, mass shootings, followed by politics of today.

Among the most famous of these history quotations has been attributed to George Santayana, the philosopher and essayist who lived through the first half of the 20th century: Those who cannot remember the past are bound to repeat it. This is why being informed by reading, listening to and learning from experienced experts is essential not only for the average person, but especially for our leaders.

When it comes to surrounding oneself with the best and brightest people in order to learn from them, two former presidents immediately come to mind: Abraham Lincoln and John Kennedy. Lincoln, upon becoming commander-in-chief, chose his two experienced rivals, Salmon Chase and William Seward, for top Cabinet positions. Similarly, President Kennedy chose Harvard historian Arthur Schlesinger and brilliant litigator Ted Sorensen as his senior advisers.

Regarding the history of civil rights, another recent movie, "The Green Book," which won three Academy Awards (best picture, supporting acting and original screenplay), demonstrates some of the worst forms of prejudice in the not-too-distant past. Among other things, the movie points out how prejudice is usually a result of stupidity and shows how education can produce positive change. Tolerance, respect, sharing: these values must be protected and enhanced.

When it comes to writing and literature, our past is critical. Sadly, too few young people study Latin today. Latin, an ancient language to be sure, is also the backbone of English. One example among hundreds is caput, head, which gives us cap, capital, capitulate, captain, decapitate and more.

As for literature, there are so many timeless works, beginning with the ancients. Take Shakespeare's late 16th and early 17th century plays, for instance. Relationships between families, among friends, between lovers, among political figures all resonate today. Just one example among many is "Romeo and Juliet" (which first appeared in the late 1500s), which spawned Maxwell Anderson's "Winterset" in the 1930s, and "West Side Story" in the 1950s. All feature "star-crossed lovers" from warring backgrounds.

What about historical biographies? Every government leader should be required to read the major presidential biographies, such as those written by David McCullough and Robert Caro.

By LYNNE AGRESS
The Baltimore Sun

Lynne Agress, who teaches in the Odyssey Program of Johns Hopkins, is president of BWB-Business Writing At Its Best Inc. and author of The Feminine Irony *and* Working With Words in Business and Legal Writing.

Regarding medical science, we have made great strides by building on the past and learning in the present for the future. A perfect example of past-to-present evolution is climate change. Once upon a time we had many fewer cars and trucks, buses and trains and planes. And our atmosphere was less polluted. We know now that in addition to gas and oil fumes, that coal causes lung disease and other serious illnesses.

Fortunately, we have scientists and other experts who are discovering energy alternatives, ways to protect our precious environment for future generations. But if leaders refuse to heed their warnings and refuse to pass legislation to protect us, we will go backward and not in a good way.

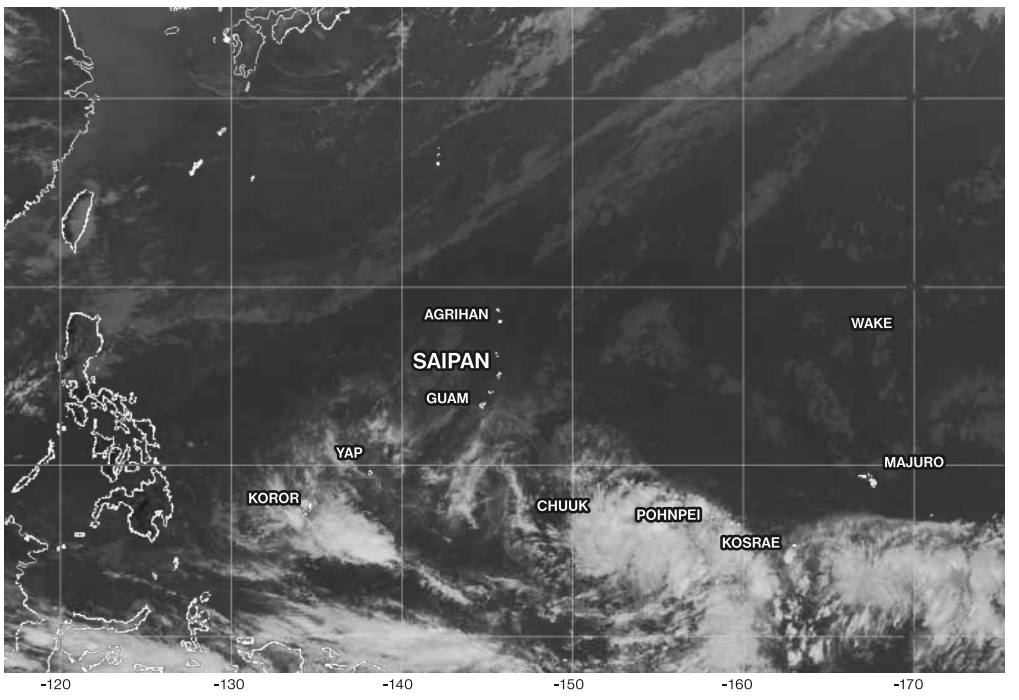
Thus, we must be willing to learn from the past and apply that knowledge to the present so that 50 years from now both young and old people can be healthy and happy, proud of and grateful for the past.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:57 AM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Radar and satellite imagery show isolated showers across the area with moderate trade winds. Buoys and altimetry indicate seas of 5 to 7 feet in the region. A surface trough well southeast, between Chuuk and Pohnpei, is producing showers and thunderstorms in central Micronesia.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	85° / 76°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 76°
Yap	Showers	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Cloudy	85° / 79°
Majuro	Cloudy	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	72° / 64°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	57° / 34°
Hong Kong	Showers	70° / 64°
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 69°
London	Showers	55° / 48°
Los Angeles	Sunny	71° / 51°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	91° / 77°
Melbourne	Sunny	73° / 54°
Miami	Showers	78° / 72°
New York	Cloudy	53° / 48°
Osaka	Showers	57° / 43°
Paris	Rain	54° / 52°
Busan	Rain	55° / 37°
Rome	Sunny	63° / 43°
Salem	Thunderstorm	73° / 62°
San Francisco	Cloudy	57° / 47°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	46° / 27°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	59° / 43°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	68° / 59°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:30 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.54
6:42 AM	LOW TIDE	1.09
12:05 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73
7:44 PM	LOW TIDE	0.05

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:26 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:41 AM	-	-
Friday	-	12:55 AM	12:35 PM
Saturday	-	1:54 AM	1:33 PM
Sunday	-	2:52 AM	2:35 PM
Monday	-	3:50 AM	3:38 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 5, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:00pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/1936:25pm		11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	6:25pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	00:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:50pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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SERISIZ 13OZ 10PC GLASS SET $12.95

FARBERWARE 35.6OZ GLASS FOOD CONTAINER $6.95

GIBSON HOME 16PC SS FLATWARE SET TEARDROP $19.95

ESSENTIAL HOME 14PC COOKWARE SET (BLACK) $45.95

KENMORE 0.9 CU.FT. COUNTERTOP MICROWAVE $99.95

GIBSON ELITE 12PC DINNERWARE SET SOHO LOUNGE $31.95

PRINTED 4PC QUEEN SIZE SHEET SET $16.95

DECORATIVE THROW PILLOW ASST DESIGN $6.95

MEMORY FOAM PILLOW MEDIUM 33*51*91CM (105-1) $8.95

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FARBERWARE 29.1" 3-TIER ESP/NAT RACK $14.95

KENMORE 0.9 CU.FT. COUNTERTOP MICROWAVE $19.95

GIBSON HELSTON 14PC CUTLERY SET WITH BLOCK $19.95

WOODEN SQUARE TABLE (398-2) $19.95

OVER THE DOOR MIRROR 30X120CM $12.95

LAWN MOWER 21" GAS $259.95

WOODEN HANGER WITH PANT BAR 4PK $3.95

THICK DOOR MAT 13"X24" $2.95

DD-SAMSUNG HEADSET WITH BLUETOOTH 4.1 GREEN $55.95

BEU BLUETOOTH SHOWER SPEAKER WITH SUCTION $6.95

COLEMAN STAINLESS STEEL GRAY 1.9QT VACUUM BOTTLE $22.95

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Business

Jet that crashed in Ethiopia grounded in much of the world

Workers collect clothes and other materials, under the instruction of investigators, at the scene where the Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 Max 8 crashed shortly after takeoff on Sunday killing all 157 on board, near Bishoftu, or Debre Zeit, south of Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia Tuesday, March 12, 2019. AP

By ELIAS MESERET and YIDNEK KIRUBEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEJERE, Ethiopia (AP)— Much of the world, including the entire European Union, grounded the Boeing jetliner involved in the Ethiopian Airlines crash or banned it from their airspace, leaving the United States on Tuesday as one of the few remaining operators of the plane involved in two deadly accidents in just five months.

The European Aviation Safety Agency took steps to keep the Boeing 737 Max 8 out of the air, joining Asian and Middle Eastern governments and carriers that also gave in to safety concerns in the aftermath of Sunday's crash, which killed all 157 people on board.

Referring to the Lion Air crash in Indonesia that killed 189 people last year, European regulators said that "similar causes may have contributed to both events."

British regulators indicated possible trouble with a reportedly damaged flight data recorder, saying they based their decision on the fact that they did not have "sufficient information" from the recorder.

Turkish Airlines, Oman Air, Norwegian Air Shuttle, Icelandair and South Korean airline Eastar Jet were among the latest carriers to halt use of the Boeing model. The United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Singapore also suspended all flights into or out of their cities.

A Turkish Airlines official said two Britain-bound planes returned to Istanbul after British airspace was closed to the aircraft. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

U.S.-based Boeing has said it has no reason to pull the popular aircraft from the skies and does not intend to issue new recommendations about the aircraft to customers. Boeing's CEO Dennis Muilenburg also spoke with President Donald Trump and reiterated that the 737 Max 8 is safe, the company said. Its technical team, meanwhile, joined American, Israeli, Kenyan and other aviation experts in the investigation led by Ethiopian authorities.

The Federal Aviation Administration also backed the jet's airworthiness and said it was reviewing all available data. It said it expects Boeing will soon complete improvements to an automated anti-stall system suspected of contributing to the deadly crash of another new Boeing 737 Max 8 in October.

"Thus far, our review shows no systemic performance issues and provides no basis to order grounding the aircraft," acting FAA Administrator Daniel K. Elwell said in a statement. "Nor have other civil aviation authorities provided data to us that would warrant action."

Some U.S. airlines expressed support for the Boeing model, and American Airlines and Southwest continued flying them. A vice president for American, the world's biggest carrier, which has 24 Max 8s, said they had "full confidence in the aircraft."

Safety experts cautioned against drawing too many comparisons too soon with the Lion Air crash in October. But others in the U.S. began pressing for action.

What is new on Boeing's 737 Max
Winglets
Dual-feather winglet reduces fuel consumption by up to 1.8% compared with existing winglets
Strengthening
Wings, fuselage and main landing gear strengthened at strategic locations to carry heavier engines
Quieter aircraft
737 Max has a 40% smaller noise footprint than existing single-aisle airplanes.
Nose landing gear
Raised to lift the wing slightly and allow the relocation of the engines on the wing
Tail cone
Streamlined for better air flow
New engines
CFM LEAP engines are larger and farther forward on the wing.
Angle of attack sensor
The new engines changed the jet's lift characteristics and necessitated a new automated flight control system called MCAS, implicated in the Lion Air crash.
Horizontal tail
The MCAS (Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System) automatically swivels the horizontal tail to move the nose down.
Source: Boeing
Graphic: Mark Nowlin, The Seattle Times/TNS

Facebook's messaging ambitions amount to much more than chat

By ANICK JESDANUN and RACHEL LERMAN
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITERS

Facebook, already the leader in enabling you to share photos, videos and links, now wants to be a force in messaging, commerce, payments and just about everything else you do online.

The company's ambitions harken to how WeChat has become the centerpiece of digital life in China, where people use it to order movie tickets, subway passes, food delivery and rides. If Facebook succeeds in turning its own messaging services into a platform for everything, it could ultimately threaten established services such as Snapchat, Yelp, Venmo, eBay and even Apple and Amazon.

"It's clear that Facebook does have very broad ambitions here," said Bob O'Donnell, president and chief analyst at Technalysis Research. "Their goal is to be the WeChat of everywhere but China."

But Facebook faces numerous hurdles. A key one is restoring user trust, following a string of privacy failures that includes the sharing of personal information from as many as 87 million users with a consulting firm affiliated with Donald Trump's campaign. And any change may cause users to rethink their relationship with Facebook.

"Facebook has a lot of momentum but it's not completely invincible," said Roger Kay, an analyst at Endpoint Technologies Associates. "People came to Facebook for a particular thing. Offer them a different thing, and they're likely to re-evaluate whether they want to be there at all."

After all, Friendster and Myspace came and went as Facebook grew. Yahoo and AltaVista moved over for Google. And remember when AOL was popular, powerful and rich enough to buy the traditional media company Time Warner? Both AOL and Yahoo are now fading brands within Verizon.

After building an advertising-supported service that depends on vacuuming up data on your hobbies, interests and political views, CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced last week that Facebook will now emphasize ways for small groups to communicate in a truly private fashion.

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DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
25,554.66	2,791.52	7,591.03
−96.22	+8.22	+32.97
−.038%	+0.30%	+0.44%

EXCHANGE RATES

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Australian Dollar	1.4161	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8495	Russian Ruble	65.5875
British Pound	0.7640	Indian Rupee	69.0271	Singapore Dollar	1.3565
Canadian Dollar	1.3360	Japanese Yen	110.8170	South Korean Won	1111.84
Chinese Yuan	6.5900	Malaysian Ringgit	111.3170	Swiss Franc	1.0076
Euro	0.8863	New Zealand Dollar	1.4611	Taiwan Dollar	30.3954
		Philippine Peso	51.8997	Thailand Baht	31.5935

Nation

Feds charge 50 in widespread US college admissions scam

BOSTON (AP)—A fast-moving college admissions scandal moved from bombshell indictments to guilty pleas in a matter of hours, yet the full fallout from the federal case against the rich and famous could take months or more to unfold.

Big names such as actresses Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin headline the list of some 50 people charged in documents released Tuesday that describe a scheme to cheat the admissions process at eight sought-after schools. The parents bribed college coaches and other insiders to get their children into selective schools, authorities said.

At the center of the scheme was admissions consultant William "Rick" Singer, founder of the Edge College & Career Network of Newport Beach, California, authorities said. Singer pleaded guilty and his lawyer, Donald Heller, said his client intends to cooperate fully with prosecutors and is "remorseful and contrite and wants to move on with his life."

Prosecutors said that parents paid Singer big money from 2011 up until just last month to bribe coaches and administrators to falsely make their children look like star athletes to boost their chances of getting accepted. The consultant also hired ringers to take college entrance exams for students, and paid off insiders at testing centers to correct students' answers.

Some parents spent hundreds of thousands of dollars and some as much as $6.5 million to guarantee their children's admission, officials said.

"These parents are a catalog of wealth and privilege," U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling said.

At least nine athletic coaches and 33 parents were charged. Dozens, including Huffman, the Emmy-winning star of ABC's "Desperate Housewives," were arrested by midday Tuesday. Huffman posted a $250,000 bond after an appearance in federal court in Los Angeles. Her husband, actor William H. Macy, has not been charged, though an FBI agent stated in an affidavit that he was in the room when Huffman first heard the pitch from a scam insider.

It was unclear when the "Full House" star Loughlin would turn herself in. Loughlin's husband, fashion designer Mossimo Giannulli, was released in Los Angeles after posting a $1 million bond.

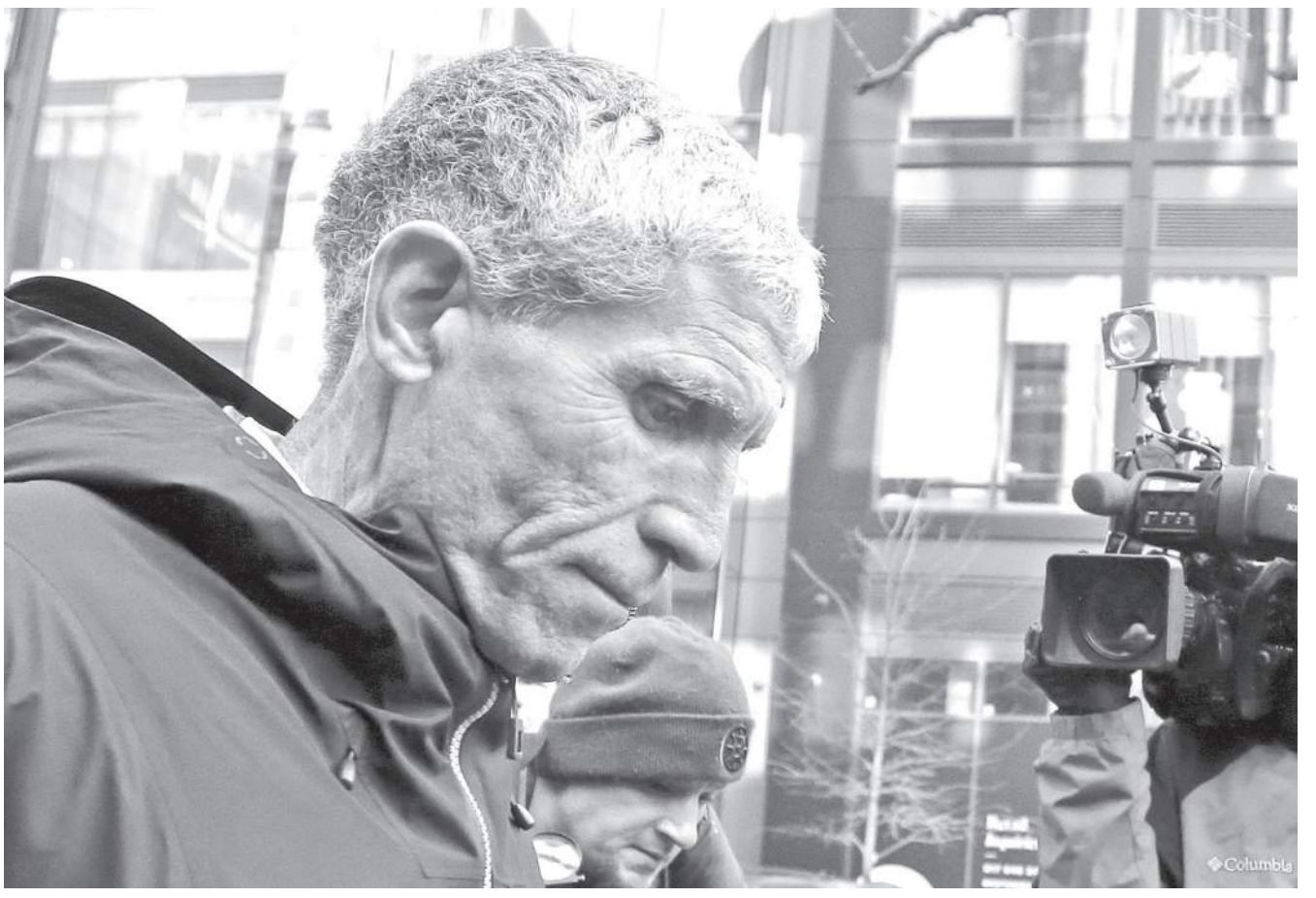
The coaches worked at schools such as Yale, Stanford, Georgetown, Wake Forest, the University of Texas, the University of Southern California and the University of California at Los Angeles.

Stanford's sailing coach John Vandemoer pleaded guilty Tuesday in Boston. A former Yale soccer coach pleaded guilty before the documents went public and helped build the case against others.

No students were charged, with authorities saying that in many cases the teenagers were unaware of what was going on. Several of the colleges involved made no mention of taking any action against the students.

Several defendants, including Huffman, were charged with conspiracy to commit fraud, punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

"For every student admitted through fraud, an honest and genuinely talented student was rejected," Lelling said.



AP

William "Rick" Singer founder of the Edge College & Career Network, departs federal court in Boston on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, after he pleaded guilty to charges in a nationwide college admissions bribery scandal.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ex-Trump campaign head faces 2nd sentencing in as many weeks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort faces his second sentencing hearing in his many weeks, with a judge expected to tack on additional prison time beyond the roughly four-year punishment he has already received. Manafort faces up to 10 additional years in prison when he is sentenced Wednesday in Washington in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into ties between the Trump campaign and Russia. A judge in Virginia last week sentenced Manafort to 47 months in prison, departing far below sentencing guidelines that allowed for more than two decades in prison and prompting national debate about disparities in how rich and poor defendants are treated by the criminal justice system. As U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson in Washington decides whether the sentences should run consecutively or at the same time, she is likely to take into account allegations by prosecutors that Manafort tampered with witnesses after he was charged and that he lied to investigators even after he pleaded guilty and pledged to cooperate.

US immigration agency moves to close international offices

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Homeland Security Department is moving toward closing immigration services offices outside the United States, saying it is expected to free up millions of dollars a year to better address a backlog in domestic locations. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services spokeswoman Jessica Collins said Tuesday that the agency is in preliminary discussions to close offices in 20 countries outside the United States. There are about 70 employees in Great Britain, Mexico, South Africa, Italy, India, the Philippines, China and other countries. Collins says the agency will work closely with the State Department to avoid any interruptions to services overseas. Organizations including Amnesty International and Human Rights First criticized the move saying that closing international offices would mean fewer services for refugees. The agency says refugee processing won't be affected.

2,200 quarantined over mumps outbreak at immigration centers

PHOENIX (AP)—Over 2,200 people exposed to the mumps virus in at least two immigration detention facilities have been quarantined, authorities said Tuesday. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials say the 25-day quarantine began March 7 at facilities in Pine Prairie, Louisiana, and Aurora, Colorado. The outbreak has renewed long-held concerns over access to medical care at immigration facilities, especially at a time when more immigrants who are crossing the border are being held and for longer periods of time. There are nearly 47,000 immigrants currently detained around the country, according to an ICE spokesman. ICE says 236 detainees have had confirmed or probable cases of mumps in 51 facilities in the past year. There were no reported cases between 2016 and 2018 at any ICE facilities. Mumps is extremely rare, and infections have dropped by 99 percent since vaccinations began in the late 1960s. It can spread quickly through coughing, sneezing or even talking, and symptoms include swollen glands, fever, headache, muscle aches and pain while chewing or swallowing.

New York, feds join to get 100K rape kits tested around US

NEW YORK (AP)—Languishing evidence in over 100,000 sexual assault cases around the country has been sent for DNA testing with money from a New York prosecutor and federal authorities, spurring over 1,000 arrests and hundreds of convictions in three years, officials say.

It's estimated that another 155,000 or more sex assault evidence kits still await testing, and thousands of results have yet to be linked to suspects. Many who have been identified can't be prosecuted because of legal time limits and other factors.

Still, the effort is a start at correcting "an absolute travesty of justice," Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said Tuesday while releasing results of his $38 million investment in testing—all outside his own turf.

"That backlog not only undermined justice and the perception, and reality, of equality—it also made every woman and every American less safe," he said.

Law enforcement and lawmakers have faced growing calls in recent years to eliminate what's known as the rape kit backlog—swabs and samples collected in sex assault cases but never tested for DNA. Victims' advocates see the untested kits as signs that sexual assaults weren't taken seriously enough.

Vance, who took office after New York City cleared its own testing backlog, and the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance have worked in tandem since 2015 to help other places tackle theirs.

The two agencies have paid to send years-old kits to labs from dozens of states and communities, ranging from Flint, Michigan, to Mobile, Alabama, to Las Vegas.

One of those kits sat untested for 15 years in Tracy Rios' case, though she'd given police the name of the then-friend she accused of luring her into a vacant apartment and sexually assaulting her in 2002 in Tempe, Arizona. Police said they couldn't charge him based on her word, and then she underwent a rape kit exam, but the investigation soon stalled, she said.

"I lost faith in the system. I thought they didn't care," she said Tuesday. A message was left for Tempe police about the case.

Two years ago, she was told her rape kit had finally been tested, with money from the Manhattan DA's office, and police were pursuing her case anew.

"It was amazing to know I was going to get justice," said Rios, whose attacker is now serving a seven-year sentence for sexual assault.

The Associated Press generally does not identify people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they agree to be identified, as Rios did.

Some cities have mobilized on their own to test years-old rape kits.

But the big grants from Manhattan and Washington "infused this movement with resources," says Ilse Knecht of the Joyful Heart Foundation, a sexual assault victims' advocacy group.

Asia

Philippine forces kill several militants in new offensive

COTABATO, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops, backed by airstrikes and artillery fire, killed several militants aligned with the Islamic State group in a new offensive in the marshy heartland of the country's south, the military said Tuesday.

Army Maj. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana said several key commanders, including a long-wanted Singaporean militant, were among the more than 100 militants who came under attack at daybreak Monday in the hilly hinterland near Shariff Saydona Mustapha town in Maguindanao province.

One soldier was killed and seven others were wounded in the firefight in the village of Inaladan, where rocket-firing air force helicopters and bomber planes pounded a militant camp before army troops came in. The militants split into groups and withdrew, Sobejana said.

Sporadic gunbattles were continuing Tuesday as troops pursued the militants belonging to the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and the Dawla Islamiya, two small groups aligned with the Islamic State group. At least six bodies of suspected militants were found at the scene of the clashes, military officials said.

Sobejana said up to 20 militants may have been killed but troops were still attempting to take full control of the camp, where most of the slain gunmen were hit by the airstrikes and artillery fire.

Troops were checking if Singaporean militant Muhamad Ali Abdul Rahiman, also known as Muawiya, along with local commander Esmael Abdulmalik, who uses the nom de guerre Abu Toraype, and bomb-maker Salahudin Hassan were among the wounded or slain militants, he said.

"The objective is to eliminate these armed groups once and for all," Sobejana said.

The militants have been blamed for recent deadly bombings in the region and shootings that killed four soldiers in Maguindanao. The militants include former members of the largest Muslim rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which signed a peace deal with the government and whose leaders now head a new Muslim autonomous region that includes Maguindanao.

Thousands of fighters in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front are to be demobilized under the peace deal. Sobejana said the Moro rebels were not tapped by the military to help fight the extremists to help them shift to normal life.

Among the militants targeted by Monday's offensive were survivors of a deadly siege of southern Marawi city by Islamic State group-aligned militants in May 2017 which was quelled by troops after five months. The militants suffered their largest loss of commanders in Marawi in a serious blow to the Islamic State group's effort to gain a foothold in the region.

In a separate army offensive Monday, troops clashed with more than 20 Muslim militants near Pagayawan town in Lanao del Sur province not far from Marawi in fighting that killed two soldiers and two militants, army Col. Romeo Brawner said.

Vietnam urges Malaysia free 2nd woman in N. Korean killing

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam has urged Malaysia to release the second woman accused of killing the estranged half-brother of North Korea's leader.

In this April 5, 2018, file photo, Vietnamese Doan Thi Huong, center, is escorted by police as she leaves after a court hearing at the Shah Alam High Court in Shah Alam, Malaysia. AP

Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh made the plea in a phone call Tuesday with his counterpart, Saifuddin Abdullah, according to a statement on the ministry website. It said Minh requested the Malaysian court conduct a fair trial and free Doan Thi Huong.

Malaysia on Monday dropped the murder charge against her co-defendant, Indonesian Siti Aisyah, who has returned to her home village.

Huong's murder trial is to resume Thursday, and prosecutors are expected to reply to a request by Huong's lawyers for the government to withdraw the murder charge against her as well.

The two women were accused along with four missing North Koreans of killing Kim Jong Nam by VX nerve agent at a Malaysian airport in 2017. Both women say they were thought they were playing a prank for a TV show.

Prosecutors did not give any reason for the remarkable retreat in their case against Aisyah, whose home government had lobbied hard for her release.

Vietnam has pushed less hard on behalf of Huong, and recently hosted North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for an official visit and a summit with President Donald Trump.

Indonesia's government said its continued high-level lobbying had resulted in Aisyah's release and alleged the young migrant worker had no idea she was being "manipulated by North Korean intelligence."

Huong's lawyer, Hisyam Teh Poh Teik, said after Monday's court session that Huong felt Aisyah's discharge was unfair to her because the judge last year had found sufficient evidence to continue the murder trial against both of them.

"She is entitled to the same kind of consideration as Aisyah," he said.

Lawyers for the women have previously said that they were pawns in a political assassination with clear links to the North Korean Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, and that the prosecution failed to show the women had any intention to kill. Intent to kill is crucial to a murder charge under Malaysian law.

Malaysian officials have never officially accused North Korea and have made it clear they don't want the trial politicized.

Kim was the eldest son in the current generation of North Korea's ruling family. He had been living abroad for years but could have been seen as a threat to Kim Jong Un's rule.

Philippine news site critical of Duterte loses court appeal

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine appeals court has upheld a decision that an online news site critical of President Rodrigo Duterte violated a constitutional ban on foreign ownership of news media.

The Court of Appeals said in a decision made public Monday that Rappler Inc. effectively allowed U.S.-based investor Omidyar Network "to participate" in its corporate actions and decisions in violation of the constitution, which requires media companies to be fully owned and managed by Filipinos.

Ressa

Rappler argued that it did not grant Omidyar the power to control or influence its news operations, but last year, the appeals court backed a Securities and Exchange Commission decision to revoke the site's license.

Media watchdogs have said the move was an act to muzzle the media.

While upholding its ruling against Rappler, the appeals court asked the SEC to reassess its revocation of the news website's operating license after Omidyar donated its holdings in Rappler to some of the site's managers and staff.

"It is incumbent upon the SEC to evaluate the terms and conditions of said alleged supervening donation ... whether the same has the effect of mitigating, if not curing, the violation it found," the court said.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said the government would not interfere in the case and "will let the law take its course." He said Rappler's case was not a press freedom issue.

Last month, Rappler's chief executive officer and executive editor, Maria Ressa, was arrested but freed on bail over an online libel case.

The move against Ressa, who was one of Time magazine's Persons of the Year last year, was denounced by Rappler and media watchdogs as a threat to press freedom. Duterte's government said the arrest was a normal step in response to a criminal complaint.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China launches new rhetorical broadside against Taiwan

BEIJING (AP)—China says attempts by Taiwan's government to block its goal of bringing the self-governing island under Beijing's control are like "stretching out an arm to block a car." The new rhetorical broadside was launched late Tuesday against Taiwanese President Tsai Ying-wen following her announcement of guidelines to counter China's "one country, two systems" framework for political unification with the island. The statement from the spokesman for the Chinese Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office, An Fengshan, accused Tsai of harming relations between the sides and using the welfare of the Taiwanese people as a "poker chip" for the sake of electoral gains. China says Taiwan is a part of its territory that must be brought under its control by force if necessary. Tsai was elected in 2016 and faces re-election next year.

Police: Wife and child of arrested militant die in explosion

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's national police chief says the wife and child of an arrested Islamic militant died in an explosion during a siege of their home in North Sumatra. Dedi Prasetyo told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the woman is believed to have blown herself up hours after throwing a home-made bomb when police tried to search the house in Sibologa district. Prasetyo said the incident was believed to have happened around 1:30 a.m. He said: "Police are now still conducting sterilization at the crime scene and finding a safe way to evacuate bodies of the woman and her child." Prasetyo said the arrested militant known as Husein was a member of Jemaah Anshorut Daulah, a militant network affiliated with the Islamic State group.

New US ambassador warns of China's 'payday loan diplomacy'

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The new U.S. ambassador to Australia says he's concerned about the way China lends money to developing Pacific nations in what he describes as "payday loan diplomacy." Arthur Culvahouse Jr. told reporters in Canberra on Wednesday that it was up to U.S. allies and Western liberal democracies to educate people about the dangers of such loans. U.S. Vice President Mike Pence previously warned of China deploying "debt traps" against developing Pacific nations. Culvahouse says he would use stronger language by calling the practice payday loan diplomacy. Culvahouse says the money looks attractive upfront "but you better read the fine print." Long affiliated with Republican officeholders, Culvahouse oversaw the vetting process for President Donald Trump's running mate in 2016. Before Culvahouse arrived, the ambassador post had been vacant since 2016.

World

Australian cardinal sentenced to prison for child sex abuse

By ROD McGUIRK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—The most senior Catholic convicted of child sex abuse was sentenced Wednesday to six years in prison for molesting two choirboys in a Melbourne cathedral in a crime that an Australian judge said showed "staggering arrogance."

Victoria state County Court Chief Judge Peter Kidd ordered Cardinal George Pell to serve a minimum of 3 years and 8 months before he is eligible for parole. The five convictions against Pell carried a maximum possible sentence of 10 years each.

"In my view, your conduct was permeated by staggering arrogance," Kidd said in handing down the sentence.

Pope Francis' former finance minister was convicted by a unanimous jury verdict in December of orally raping a 13-year-old choirboy and indecently dealing with the boy and the boy's 13-year-old friend in the late 1990s, months after Pell became archbishop of Melbourne. A court order had suppressed media reporting the news until last month.

Pell

The 77-year-old denies the allegations and will appeal his convictions in the Victoria Court of Appeal on June 5. It was not immediately clear if he will also appeal the sentence.

For the first time in Pell's many court appearances since he returned to Australia from the Vatican to face abuse charges, Pell wore an open-necked shirt without a cleric's collar.

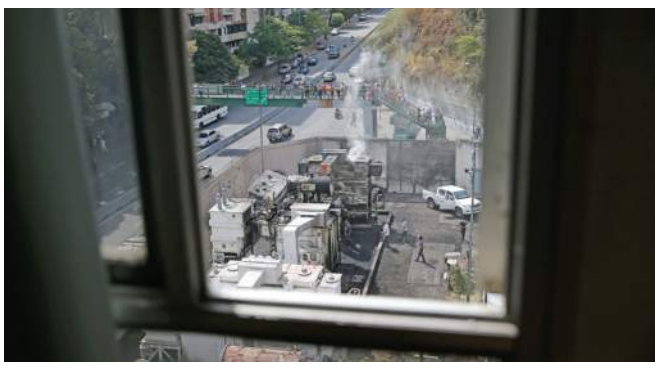
AP EXPLAINS What's behind Venezuela's historic blackout?

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—A massive blackout that left millions of Venezuelans without power has triggered one persistent question: How could a country with the world's largest proven oil reserves go dark?

The answer involves poor decision-making, rampant corruption, and the steady flight of electrical engineers, according to experts, though the government blames sabotage.

Here's a look at what led up to the historic blackout and why it has taken so long to restore power.


AP
Transformers and electrical equipment smolder at electrical substation in the Baruta area of Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, March 11, 2019.

HOW DOES VENEZUELA'S POWER GRID WORK?

Venezuela's power grid relies heavily on the Guri Dam, a giant hydroelectric power station that was inaugurated in the late 1960s. While the engineers who planned Venezuela's current power grid imagined the Guri Dam would supply about 60 percent of the country's electricity, today it is believed to supply a whopping 80 percent. The remaining 20 percent comes predominately from thermoelectric power stations.

How much power Guri can actually supply and the level of Venezuela's current demand are not fully known because officials have not released that data in years. But engineers who closely examine Venezuela's power grid estimate demand has actually declined to around 10,500 megawatts—about the same levels as in 1999—as industries have shut down and millions leave the nation.

Some engineers speculate Venezuela has even less supply than it did 20 years ago largely as a result of poor maintenance of existing plants.

WHAT WERE THE BIG CONCERNS BEFORE THE BLACKOUT?

For years engineers have been warning that Venezuela was sliding toward a prolonged blackout.

Critics say the Guri Dam on the Caroni River basin has long needed updates and become vulnerable during periods of drought.

The late President Hugo Chavez tried to remedy the country's over-reliance on hydroelectric power with what he called an "electricity revolution." Venezuela spent billions of dollars on new thermoelectric plants that in theory should be able to power the nation even without the Guri Dam, but they either were not built or were poorly maintained.

Military generals were put in charge of running Venezuela's power grid and qualified engineers—like many other professionals—began to leave the country.

The current head of both Venezuela's energy ministry and the state electricity company is a former National Guard major general with no apparent engineering expertise. On Twitter, he describes himself as "socialist, anti-imperialist and radically Chavista."

Chavez's successor, President Nicolas Maduro has responded to shortages by urging Venezuelans use less power by reducing the work week, and at one point even urged women to ration their use of hair dryers.

WHAT CAUSED THE BLACKOUT?

Maduro has blamed the blackout on a cyberattack on the plant's all-important electronic monitoring system, though engineers who have worked on the dam say they don't believe that.

One theory is that a fire knocked down one of the huge 765-kilovolt lines that connect the Guri Dam to Caracas. The regional electrical company that operated the dam decades ago had a fleet of helicopters that monitored the region for fires, but current workers say there is no functioning quick-response system in place. One worker, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal, said there has been a lack of routine maintenance, such as cutting down brush to keep it at a distance from the lines.

Though the three lines are spaced a considerable distance apart, Jose Aguilar, a Venezuelan energy expert who now resides in the United States, said a fire at just one of those could cause an outage affecting all of them.

Other theories include a breakdown in the electronic monitoring system that controls power distribution, a turbine going offline or a failure elsewhere.

"We don't know yet what happened because they're hiding it," Aguilar said.

COULD THERE ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN A CYBERATTACK?

Three engineers consulted by The Associated Press with direct knowledge of the Guri's operating systems say it is almost impossible. They explain that the computers that operate the monitoring system are not connected to the internet and can only communicate with each other, making them immune to an outside attack.

Anurag Srivastava, an engineering professor at Washington State University, said the only way to carry out a cyberattack in a closed system would be through physical access to the substation where the system is located.

Venezuelan authorities haven't provided proof of a cyberattack, but have pointed fingers at those they say are involved.

On the night of the outage, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio tweeted about the outage minutes after it began, and Information Minister Jorge Rodriguez suggested he may have known about it in advance. On Tuesday, Venezuela's pro-Maduro chief prosecutor announced that opposition leader Juan Guaido is under investigation for the alleged sabotaged. The government has also detained a journalist who had previously spoken about Venezuela's vulnerabilities to a blackout, a video of which was shown on state television as proof he had prior knowledge of an attack.

HOW SOON WILL POWER BE RESTORED?

Venezuela's information minister said Tuesday that the power grid had been almost completely restored. But there are still pockets that have now gone six days in the dark.

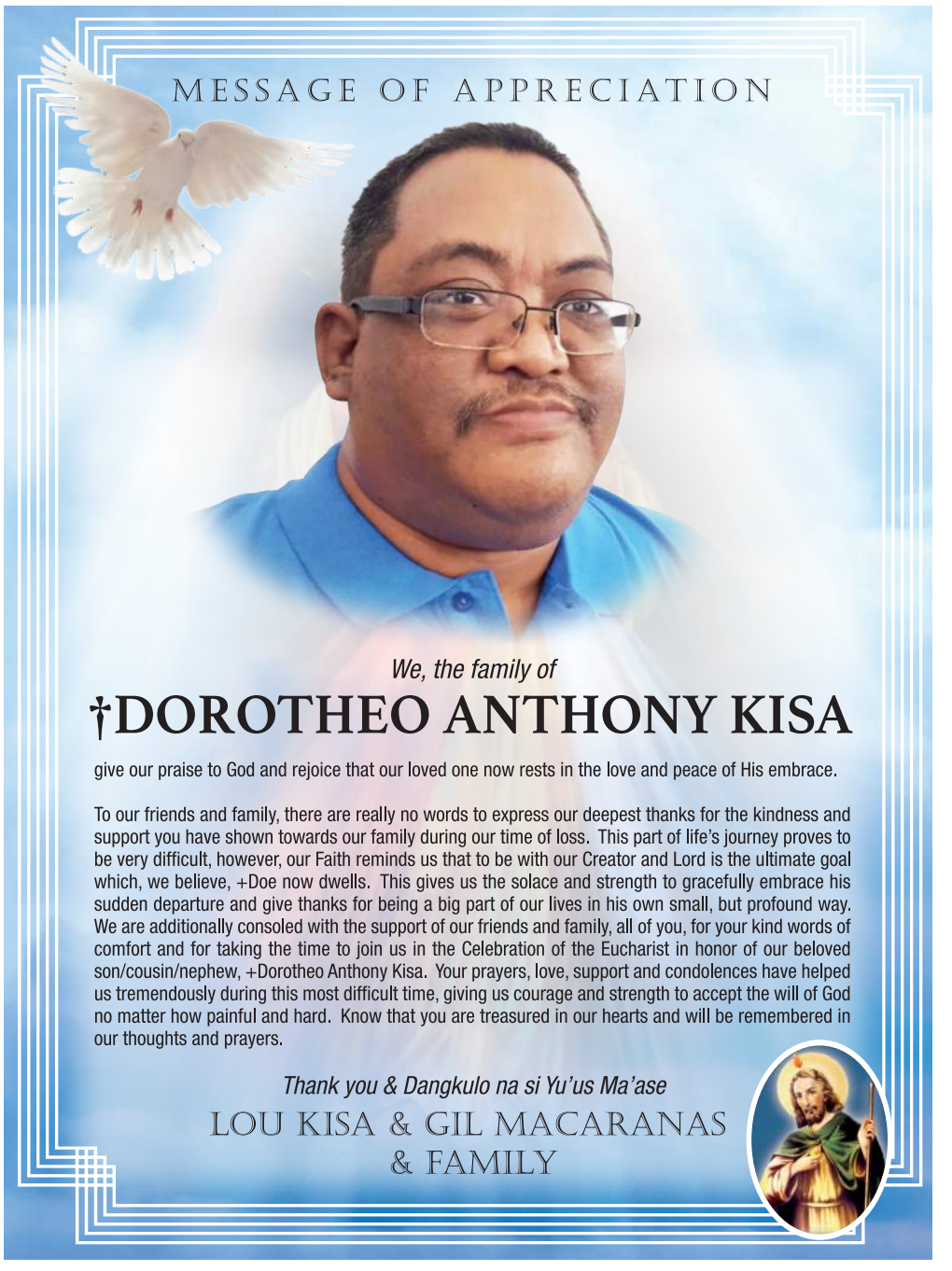
Miguel Lara, a former general manager for the independent Venezuelan agency that collected data on electricity usage, said full power might be restored within days—or that problems could drag on for weeks. The worst-case scenario, he said, is an extended period in which power is restored in one place but then goes off hours later, or is restored in one city while another stays dark.

"I'm telling my friends to prepare for the worst," he said.

In the process of restoring the system, there have been multiple fires, including one at what was previously the country's largest transformer. Srivastava said fires at substations and transformers indicate engineers are using electrical loads higher than the equipment's rated capacity. Some engineers like Aguilar say that could point to a lack of expertise in how to put the system back together.

The country's heavy reliance on the Guri Dam could also complicate efforts, Srivastava said, because restoration depends on having access to multiple power sources. Dependence on one major power source is likely to slow down the recovery.

Soldiers were blocking access to the Guri Dam and adjacent power stations on Tuesday.


MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION
We, the family of
†DOROTHEO ANTHONY KISA
give our praise to God and rejoice that our loved one now rests in the love and peace of His embrace.
To our friends and family, there are really no words to express our deepest thanks for the kindness and support you have shown towards our family during our time of loss. This part of life's journey proves to be very difficult, however, our Faith reminds us that to be with our Creator and Lord is the ultimate goal which, we believe, +Doe now dwells. This gives us the solace and strength to gracefully embrace his sudden departure and give thanks for being a big part of our lives in his own small, but profound way. We are additionally consoled with the support of our friends and family, all of you, for your kind words of comfort and for taking the time to join us in the Celebration of the Eucharist in honor of our beloved son/cousin/nephew, +Dorotheo Anthony Kisa. Your prayers, love, support and condolences have helped us tremendously during this most difficult time, giving us courage and strength to accept the will of God no matter how painful and hard. Know that you are treasured in our hearts and will be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.
Thank you & Dangkulo na si Yu'us Ma'ase
LOU KISA & GIL MACARANAS
& FAMILY

Environment

Indian Ocean exploration makes historic undersea broadcast

By DAVID KEYTON and JERRY HARMER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
An image taken from video issued by Nekton shows Lucy Woodall, Nekton Mission principle scientist, left, alongside pilot Randy Holt inside a submersible 60 metres below surface of Indian Ocean during a descent into the Indian Ocean off Alphonse Atoll near the Seychelles, Tuesday March 12, 2019.

ALPHONSE ISLAND, Seychelles (AP)—A British-led scientific mission to document changes taking place beneath the Indian Ocean has broadcast its first live, television-quality video transmission from a two-person submersible.

Monsoon storms and fierce underwater currents continued to present a challenge at greater depths as scientific work began in earnest on Tuesday off the Seychelles.

The Associated Press has successfully broadcast the first multi-camera live signal in full broadcast quality from manned submersibles using optical video transmission techniques, in which the pictures transmit through the waves using the blue region of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Previous real-time video transmissions from the world's deep oceans were livestreams sent from remotely operated unmanned subsea vehicles, with the video moving via fixed fiber optic cable.

The first transmission came from 60 meters (200 feet) down. Previous deep-sea livestreams cataloguing the world's oceans have been via fiber-optic cable. The new broadcast uses cutting-edge wireless technology, sending video optically through the waves.

The Associated Press is the only news agency working with British scientists from the Nekton research team on its deep-sea mission that aims to unlock the secrets of the Indian Ocean, one of the world's least explored areas.

The multi-national team of scientists is gathering data to help policy-makers frame protection and conservation measures.

Nekton Mission director Oliver Steeds said the experience battling the waves underlines the need to expand scientific knowledge of the waters off the island nation, which the team is there to do.

"The problem is, when it comes to this place, when it came to the currents, the last current data that was gathered before we came here was in 1882," he said. "It's part of the challenge. This is exploration."

The day of celebration was cut short when an accident severed the cable of a key piece of equipment, leaving it on the sea bed off the tiny island of Alphonse.

It wasn't known what cut the cable of the Remotely Operated Vehicle, or ROV, though it may have been the ship's propeller. The camera-carrying ROV is a vital image-gathering tool that can go deeper than the submersibles.

It wasn't clear what impact the accident will have on the team's work. The two submersibles will mount a retrieval operation on Wednesday.

AP video coverage will include exploring the depths of up to 300 meters off the Seychelles in two-person submarines, the search for submerged mountain ranges and previously undiscovered marine life, a behind-the-scenes look at life on board, interviews with researchers and aerial footage of the mission. The seven-week expedition is expected to run until April 19.

Young Seychelles researcher offered surprise, historic dive

By DAVID KEYTON and JERRY HARMER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALPHONSE ATOLL, Seychelles (AP)—A young scientist from the Seychelles on Friday became the first known Seychellois to explore deep below scuba depth in the largely uncharted waters of her island nation.

The 23-year-old Stephanie Marie looked stunned when she was offered a seat in a submersible for a technical test dive near the tiny atoll of Alphonse.

"This is really an amazing opportunity that for the first time a Seychellois, and a woman also, gets to do this," she told The Associated Press. The offer came on International Women's Day.

The marine researcher with the Seychelles Fishing Authority is taking part in the British-led Nekton Mission to explore the Indian Ocean, one of the last major unexplored frontiers. There is almost no data on the biodiversity of the Seychelles beneath scuba depth, or 30 meters (about 100 feet).

The mission, which began this week in earnest, expects to discover new species and document evidence of climate change in the vast body of water that is already feeling the effects of global warming.

Principal scientist Lucy Woodall said the diversity of the Nekton team was important to her.

"It is absolutely wonderful that someone from the Seychelles is the first one to go into the water in the submersibles," she said. "That is incredibly important to me."

The series of dives took Marie down to 70 meters (230 feet) as the submersible tested its systems in an unexpectedly strong current. When she returned to the mother ship she was brimming with excitement. She hugged Nekton mission director Oliver Steeds, who had offered her the role of first co-pilot.

"I was so scared, I was so happy, it was mixed emotions," Marie said. "But then when I was sitting in the sub, way down, everything was calm. You forget about your fear, you forget about everything."

The data from the mission will be used to help the Seychelles with its plan to protect almost a third of its national waters by 2020. That's an area larger than Germany. The initiative is a key part of the country's "blue economy," which attempts to balance development needs with those of the environment.

The AP is the only news agency working with British scientists from the Nekton research team. AP video coverage will include exploring the depths of up to 300 meters (985 feet) off the coast of the Seychelles in two-person submarines, the search for submerged mountain ranges and previously undiscovered marine life, a behind-the-scenes look at life on board, interviews with researchers and aerial footage.

The seven-week expedition is expected to run until April 19.

Researchers find hammerhead 'nursery' off Galapagos Island

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Researchers in Ecuador say they have discovered a "nursery" of hammerhead sharks off the coast of the Galapagos Islands, a find that may help them track and protect the endangered predators.

The head of the project, Eduardo Espinosa, said the group had found 20 hammerheads in the area along Santa Cruz island, and was able to attach monitors to five of them.

"That site, where the babies spent two or three years, is important not only for the Galapagos but on a world scale because it gives hope for the protection and conservation of a species," he said.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature lists hammerhead sharks as endangered species that have suffered sharply declining numbers in recent years around the world. They are vulnerable partly because they breed relatively few times, their schools are sometimes caught in fishing nets and their fins are prized in Asian markets.

Marine biologist Alex Hearn of San Francisco University in Quito said researchers had believed that the hammerheads gave birth along continental coasts, so the discovery of the island nursery opens new lines of study.

The hammerheads are an attraction for divers visiting the Galapagos, about 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) west of the mainland, and an image of a hammerhead is part of the Galapagos National Park's emblem.

Volkswagen vows to build 22 million e-cars over next decade

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—German automaker Volkswagen said Tuesday it plans to ramp up its production of electric vehicles over the next ten years to 22 million and reduce its carbon footprint over vehicle life cycles by 30 percent.

Previously, the company said it would aim for 15 million. That was ambitious in itself given that it made fewer than 50,000 battery-only vehicles last year.

The company is pivoting to electric vehicles as it seeks to comply with new limits on carbon dioxide emissions in Europe, and a push by China for more low-emission vehicles.

The company also disclosed that operating profit at its core Volkswagen brand, one of 12, fell to 3.2 billion euros ($3.6 billion) from 3.3 billion last year as the company faced bottlenecks certifying vehicles under new emissions tests.

The company said operating results for the group in 2018 rose 0.4 percent to 17.1 billion euros on sales that rose 2.7 percent to 235.8 billion euros. Net profit for the year rose 6 percent to 12.2 billion euros.

CEO Herbert Diess said at the company's annual news conference that the company met its profit goal with an operating margin of 7.3 percent.

Life & Style

Huffman and Loughlin charges shatter actresses' clean images

By ANDREW DALTON
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As an Emmy winner and Oscar nominee, Felicity Huffman has been known as one of Hollywood's more versatile actresses, as well as one-half of one of its more famous acting couples with husband William H. Macy.

While Lori Loughlin's resume might not be as accomplished, her face may be even better known: she gained fame for her role as the wholesome "Aunt Becky" in the 1990s sitcom "Full House," and for the past few years has become the queen of the Hallmark channel with her holiday movies and the series "When Calls the Heart."

On Wednesday, both actresses had their reputations shattered as they were charged with fraud and conspiracy Tuesday along with dozens of others in a scheme that according to federal prosecutors saw wealthy parents pay bribes to get their children into some of the nation's top colleges.

Huffman, 56, was released Tuesday posting a $250,000 bond. Loughlin, 54, has not yet been arrested but her husband, fashion designer Mossimo Giannulli, was released after posting a $1 million bond. Giannulli, whose Mossimo clothing had long been a Target brand until recently, left without answering reporters' questions.

AP

This combination photo shows actress Lori Loughlin at the Women's Cancer Research Fund's An Unforgettable Evening event in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Feb. 27, 2018, left, and actress Felicity Huffman at the 70th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles on Sept. 17, 2018.

Huffman briefly appeared in the lobby of the courthouse to exit Tuesday evening, but went into an elevator with courthouse security officers after seeing a mass of cameras posted at the front door. Officers later told journalists she was no longer in the building.

Authorities have not said why Macy, who has starred for the last several years in the Showtime series "Shameless" and was an Oscar nominee for the 1996 movie "Fargo," has not been charged. He sat in the courtroom where Huffman had her first appearance and appeared to read legal documents during the proceedings. Huffman, who wore glasses and her hair in a ponytail, looked over at her husband repeatedly during the hearing.

Her attorney cited her community ties and asked that the actress be released on her own recognizance. "She's simply not the kind of person who is going to become an international fugitive," her attorney, Evan A. Jeaness said in court.

Court documents allege that the couple agreed to the plan, and Huffman paid $15,000, disguised as a charitable donation, toward the scam.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Harry Potter publisher Arthur A Levine leaves longtime job

NEW YORK (AP)—The man who helped introduce J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" books to U.S. audiences is leaving his longtime job at Scholastic and starting his own publishing house. On Tuesday, Scholastic announced the departure of Arthur A. Levine, who since 1996 had headed an eponymous imprint at the children's publishing company. Besides Rowling, he also was an early champion of Phillip Pullman and his acclaimed novel "The Golden Compass." In a statement issued through Scholastic, Levine said that it was an ideal time for a small publisher "to thrive." Levine first heard of Rowling at a 1997 book fair in Bologna, Italy, where he was showed a manuscript of her first Potter novel by a representative of her British publisher, Bloomsbury. Scholastic published all seven U.S. editions of Rowling's mega-selling fantasy series.

Howard Stern is No. 1 - on Amazon best-seller list

NEW YORK (AP)—Howard Stern fans are clearly up for his new book. The shock jock's "Howard Stern Comes Again" will be published May 14, Simon & Schuster announced Tuesday. It's his first book in more than 20 years and was No. 1 on Amazon.com within hours of its announcement. Stern's previous books, "Private Parts" and "Miss America," both spent months on The New York Times' best-seller list. The publisher didn't immediately provide details about the new book. Since the 1990s, Stern has divorced and remarried. He also logged hours of interviews with a presidential Donald Trump that became newsmakers in 2016. Trump spoke crudely about his daughter, Ivanka, and about Kim Kardashian. He acknowledged that he had initially supported the Iraq War, but as a candidate insisted he always opposed it.

HBO's doc 'Leaving Neverland' becomes a network favorite

NEW YORK (AP)—HBO's "Leaving Neverland" is heading up the charts.

The unsparing documentary about Michael Jackson and his alleged sexual abuse is already the third most-watched documentary of the past decade at the prime cable network, which takes pride in its documentary schedule. It's likely to surpass "Bright Lights," the movie about Debbie Reynolds and her daughter Carrie Fisher, which is currently in second place, the network said. The first half of the four-hour program on Jackson has been seen by 3.67 million people, the Nielsen company said. The second half stands at 2.45 million. Those totals are expected to go up as people catch up with the program through delayed viewing. HBO's most-watched documentary over the past decade is "Going Clear," about Scientology. CBS won another week in prime-time behind the soon-to-depart comedy "The Big Bang Theory," and its prequel, "Young Sheldon."

'Dark Knight' trilogy returns to theaters for Batman's 80th

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Batman is turning 80 this year, and Christopher Nolan's "Dark Knight" trilogy is coming back to select theaters to celebrate in high-resolution 70mm IMAX. Warner Bros. president of domestic distribution Jeff Goldstein said Tuesday that the engagement will kick off in Los Angeles at Universal CityWalk on March 30 with back-to-back screenings of "Batman Begins," ''The Dark Knight" and "The Dark Knight Rises." Nolan will participate in a Q&A between the second and third films. On April 13, the trilogy will screen in New York, San Francisco, Toronto and Indianapolis, where audiences can also see footage from Nolan's Q& A. Tickets go on sale Wednesday at 9 a.m. Pacific. The caped crusader first appeared in the comics in 1939.

Michael Avenatti says he no longer represents Stormy Daniels

WASHINGTON (AP)—Michael Avenatti, who became famous as the lawyer for Stormy Daniels, said Tuesday that he no longer represents the porn actress who alleged she had an affair with President Donald Trump. In the last year, the duo rose to become household names in their fight against Trump, dominating cable news shows for months and taunting the president in interviews. As conservative pundits hit back, Avenatti became Daniels' top protector and promoter, defending her life choices and job as a porn star, calling out hypocrisy against her and painting her as an American hero. Avenatti said Tuesday that he told Daniels last month he was terminating their agreement and had made the decision after lengthy discussions. He would not provide details. Daniels said in her own post that she's hired another attorney, Clark Brewster, an Oklahoma-based attorney.

Crime shows influence parent's paranoia about the real world

DEAR ABBY: I dwell in a small, Southern and, I thought, safe hometown. I'm currently unemployed and therefore unable to afford a place of my own. I live with my parents. I have job-searched for months now for something within walking distance. I pay for food with food stamps. But I can't yet pay for transportation, insurance, necessities, etc.

My problem is, I love to walk four to six times a week for 30 minutes to an hour. It helps me with depression and boosts my self-esteem, health and wellness. It shouldn't be a problem, right? Well, I've been warned several times that I could get hit by a vehicle, kidnapped and even murdered if I continue to do it. (My parents are TV crime show fans.)

Abby, I have spoken with the police in my area. They assure me it's safe to be out for a walk. Yet, if I'm gone more than 15 or 20 minutes, I receive incessant, ominous, foreboding warning calls on my cellphone. What can I do about their overactive spookiness? I can't afford a treadmill.

STEPPING OUT IN ARKANSAS

DEAR STEPPING: When you leave for your walk, tell your parents approximately what time they can expect you back, leaving yourself a few minutes' leeway. Then silence your cellphone and enjoy your walk.

DEAR ABBY: Is it wrong to question some belief or fact that someone else has brought up? I'm not in the habit of picking fights or bringing up controversial topics in social situations. But if someone else brings it up first or makes a verifiable claim, I think I'm within my rights to ask for a source or to argue the point if I disagree.

I am being told that doing this is rude. I always thought that if someone makes a claim or statement, then it's acceptable for the people you are talking with to ask where the information came from or to disagree. And if someone doesn't want to risk their opinion being challenged, or isn't absolutely sure the claim can withstand scrutiny, they should keep their mouth shut. IS it rude to ask, "Oh, what's your source for that?" or say, "The studies I've read say that ..."?

FRIENDLY DISCUSSION

DEAR FRIENDLY: I think it depends upon the subject being discussed and the tone in which the question is asked. Sometimes it ain't what you say as much as the way it comes across that makes others defensive.

DEAR ABBY: At the checkout counter I noticed the clerk had a tattoo in the cleavage of her breasts. I could see it because of her low-cut blouse. What's the correct protocol? Should I ignore the obvious, or should I look closer to be sure I am seeing it correctly? Should I compliment her on her nice tattoo? What exactly am I to do while she's ringing up my purchase?

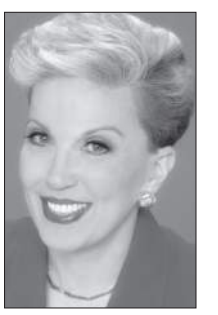
BAFFLED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR BAFFLED: I'm so glad you asked! What you should do is keep your eyes focused on the tally the computer monitor shows to be sure the checker is ringing up your purchase correctly. It's the way to make the "breast" of a touchy situation.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

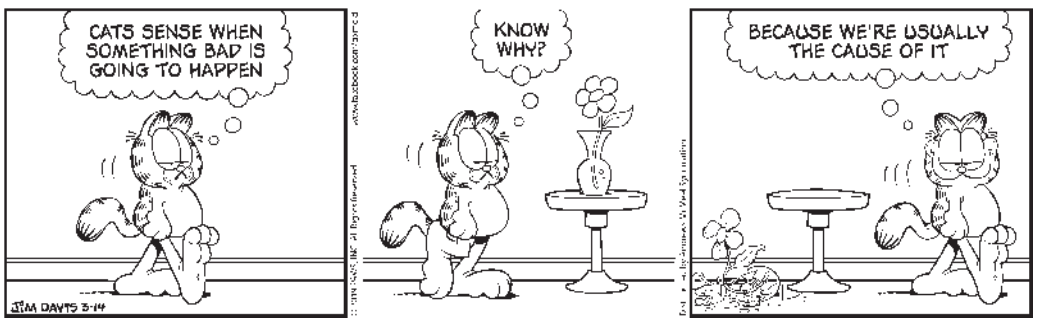
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

DAD, CAN YOU FIX MY BEANIE? I BROKE THE PROPELLER MOTOR TRYING TO PUT IT TOGETHER.
WELL... LET'S SEE.
THIS ISN'T TOO BAD. YOU JUST SNAPPED THE BATTERY CASE. I'LL JUST GLUE IT TOGETHER AND INSERT THE SWITCH FOR YOU, OK?
THERE! GOOD AS NEW! NOW JUST LET THIS SIT AWHILE SO THE GLUE CAN SET.
YOU DID IT! YOU FIXED IT! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HEY, MOM! DAD FIXED SOMETHING!
HE DID?? YOUR DAD??
ALL RIGHT! THAT'S ENOUGH!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

KATY, I KNOW YOU WANT TO BE A FAMOUS SINGER, AND THAT'S GREAT.
BUT IT'LL TAKE YEARS OF REALLY HARD WORK AND LONG HOURS.
OKAY. I CAN DO THAT. I GUESS...
I WAS HOPING FOR MORE OF A "BORN WITH IT, NATURAL GIFT" ROUTE.
WE'RE LOOKING AT MORE OF A "MOUNT EVEREST" ROUTE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

DID YOU HEAR WHAT THAT GUY SAID ABOUT INVESTING?
WE SHOULD MOVE SOME MONEY INTO PRECIOUS METALS.
FINE, I'LL TRANSFER 5 BUCKS FROM THE TUPPERWARE BOWL TO THE COFFEE CAN.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Soak up the sun
5 Joke
8 Sports figure?
12 Penne — vodka
13 Playwright Levin
14 "Oops!"
15 Picnic spoiler
16 Vacuum's lack
17 Novelist Jaffe
18 Chinese food assortment
20 Some mixologists
22 Docs' org.
23 "Uh-huh"
24 Tousle
27 "Locksley Hall" poet
32 Year in Mexico
33 Sock part
34 Stop — dime
35 Short recital piece
38 Uppity one
39 Spike's warning
40 Three, in Rome
42 JFK's vessel
45 Brother's son
49 Leveling wedge
50 Jurist Fortas
52 "I did it!"
53 Antitoxins
54 "— the season ..."
55 Ireland
56 Tiny amounts
57 Six-pack muscles
58 Head, to Henri

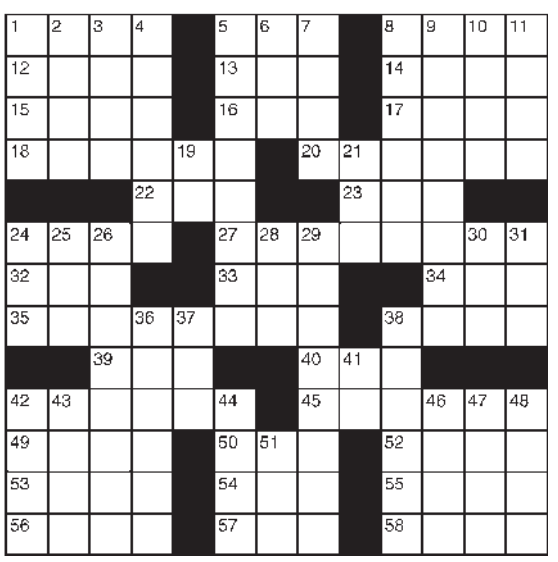
DOWN

1 Poet of yore
2 Jai —
3 Slender
4 Sunflower State
5 "Billions" actor Paul
6 "Exodus" hero
7 Attire
8 "Oklahoma!" carriage
9 Oscar-winning actress Emma
10 Top-of-the-line
11 Compared to
19 Hesitant sound
21 Objectivist Rand
24 More (Sp.)
25 Popular card game
26 Lark, for one
28 Very long time
29 Fastidious trait
30 Yoko of music
31 Collar
36 Scents
37 La-la lead-in
38 Music for seven
41 Concerning
42 "Hey!"
43 Ellington's "Take — Train"
44 "Toodle-oo!"
46 Aesopian also-ran
47 Tend texts
48 Fade away
51 Clothing protector

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	G	R	A	■	Y	A	P	■	F	I	S	T
R	U	E	S	■	U	N	I	■	I	N	C	A
I	N	F	I	E	L	D	S	■	A	F	A	R
A	S	I	A	N	■	■	A	C	T	O	R	S
■	■	■	G	O	E	S	■	I	S	R	■	■
O	H	I	O	■	R	E	S	T	■	M	A	T
D	O	N	■	O	R	A	T	E	■	A	W	E
D	E	F	■	A	S	I	A	■	U	L	N	A
■	■	■	A	S	H	■	S	T	A	R	■	■
B	E	N	H	U	R	■	■	■	H	A	R	M
O	N	T	O	■	I	N	F	I	N	I	T	Y
P	Y	R	E	■	C	A	R	■	U	R	O	S
S	A	Y	S	■	K	E	Y	■	S	E	N	T

Yesterday's answer 3-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Betsy Brandt, 46; Megan Follows, 51; Billy Crystal, 71; Quincy Jones, 86.

Happy Birthday: Think twice before making a move this year. Emotions will be difficult to control, causing you to show a sign of weakness and vulnerability. Don't overreact, promise too much or let poor influences come between you and common sense. Rise above and choose the high road, regardless of what others try to persuade or pressure you to do. Your numbers are 3, 12, 18, 22, 27, 36, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Stick to what and who you know. Being too open or friendly will give someone the opportunity to meddle in your affairs. Keep your life simple and doable. Only promise what you know is possible; it will lead to new beginnings. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Go over every detail. To be sure is to be safe. If you play your cards right, you stand to make a substantial gain. Don't let someone coerce you into giving too much or getting into an argument that is fruitless. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* An emotional matter will escalate quickly if deception and poor judgment take over. Be precise, and offer only what you know is factual. You'll be called out if you deviate from the truth or offer the wrong impression. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* If you want change, be prepared to do the work yourself. An idea you have will be worth fleshing out and can even lead to saving money or a financial gain. Don't trust someone else to take care of your responsibilities. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Listen to what's being said. Don't argue with the boss or someone in a higher position. Gather your thoughts and get the facts before you decide to make changes. Time is on your side, so slow down and observe. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Refuse to let emotions interfere with your productivity or progress. Concentrate on what you want to accomplish, and set goals that you can handle on your own if necessary. Travel, communication and educational pursuits are in your best interest. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Put your personal needs first. Listen to your heart, and make adjustments that will put you at ease. Demanding people should be kept at a distance until you have time to figure out how best to say no. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Interacting with people who are heading in a similar direction will lead to personal growth and greater enthusiasm. Success is within reach, but taking better care of your health and well-being should be your priorities. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Get the facts before you make an assumption and overreact. Truth matters, and treating others the way you want to be treated will help you bypass getting into trouble with someone. Judge and you will be judged. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make positive changes to the way you live. How you present what you want to do will make a difference to the response you receive. Don't put your money or your health at risk to prove a point. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* A steady pace forward is good enough. If you overdo it, you will invite injury or ill health. Know when to stop and when to ask for help. Don't be fooled by someone using emotional tactics. Choose love over discord. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be careful what you share. Look out for your best interests, and draw a line between what's doable and what's foolish. You don't have to impress anyone; just do your best and stick to what you know. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, outgoing and generous. You are compassionate and elaborate.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4								2
			6		7			
1	7						4	3
	4			2			1	
3	9						7	6
	6			5			9	
8	2						3	9
				5		8		
9								8

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	5	8	1	7	9	6	3	4
3	9	7	6	2	4	1	5	8
4	1	6	5	8	3	7	2	9
9	4	3	8	1	5	2	7	6
8	7	1	4	6	2	3	9	5
6	2	5	9	3	7	4	8	1
5	6	2	7	9	1	8	4	3
7	8	4	3	5	6	9	1	2
1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WORSHIPPING THE SUN Solution: 8 letters

D	D	F	M	Y	T	H	E	V	N	C	Y	C	L	E
E	U	H	I	E	A	N	E	R	E	M	M	U	S	R
I	S	O	M	R	I	N	Y	N	V	P	R	A	Y	U
T	K	P	V	V	E	X	T	E	A	R	T	H	N	T
Y	L	E	I	R	A	R	O	N	E	I	E	O	O	L
E	S	D	G	L	A	S	T	L	H	T	S	R	O	U
T	R	Y	A	L	C	H	U	Y	A	A	R	I	M	C
N	A	G	A	P	E	E	G	N	E	H	E	Z	P	E
O	T	E	M	O	C	O	I	S	J	O	V	O	L	R
I	S	M	N	N	L	M	O	U	R	N	I	N	A	U
T	R	O	A	O	U	L	S	B	T	O	N	N	N	T
A	E	D	M	L	A	T	I	A	M	R	U	I	E	A
E	W	S	L	R	I	T	F	E	I	L	E	B	T	N
R	O	I	N	C	D	F	O	R	C	E	C	A	P	S
C	P	W	E	A	L	T	H	T	G	N	E	R	T	S

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Belief, Central, Comet, Cosmology, Creation, Culture, Cycle, Dance, Deity, Divine, Dusk, Earth, Eclipse, Energy, Fire, Force, Galaxy, Halo, Harvest, Heaven, Honor, Hope, Horizon, Illuminate, Justice, Lunar, Moon, Myth, Nature, Orbit, Pagan, Pantheon, Planet, Power, Pray, Season, Solar, Space, Stars, Strength, Summer, Sun, Temple, Universe, Wealth, Wisdom

Yesterday's Answer: Autocad

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Saipan, MP 96950
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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of: JOAQUIN KRISCHIN AQUINO CENTINA Minor Child By: KRISTINE MAY AQUINO Petitioner(s)	:	FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0458 NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hearby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 1, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom MBP, before Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 2nd day of January, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Giants trade Beckham to Browns, Jets get Bell

NEW YORK (AP)—While the free agency spending frenzy runs wild, the Giants and Browns found a way to overshadow it Tuesday night: a trade of Odell Beckham Jr.

Not to be outdone, however, the Jets got the guy at the top of their free agency list, agreeing with former Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell on a deal early Wednesday morning.

The Giants are sending their star receiver to Cleveland for first- and second-round draft picks in April and safety Jabrill Peppers in the second blockbuster trade in four days. On Saturday, Pittsburgh sent unhappy wideout Antonio Brown to Oakland, a deal Brown forced.

Beckham is the NFL's highest-paid receiver; he got a five-year, $90 million extension last August. He comes off two injury-plagued seasons, but when healthy is a game-breaking target, just like Brown.

The two trades become official Wednesday when the league's business year begins. People with knowledge of the moves told The Associated Press of the trades, speaking anonymously because the transactions can't be announced until after 4 p.m. EDT on Wednesday.

Beckham is known for his gravity-defying catches and breakaway skills, but also for being temperamental. He was suspended for one game in 2015 for his on-field battles with cornerback Josh Norman, then with Carolina.

Cleveland suddenly looks like a force in an AFC North in which both Baltimore and Pittsburgh have been weakened in the offseason. With Beckham reunited with receiver Jarvis Landry, a teammate at LSU, it gives quarterback Baker Mayfield two top targets. The Browns, who went 7-8-1 last season after not winning a game in 2017, haven't made the playoffs since 2002.

The mega-trade came hours after another busy day of dealmaking.

The money flowed out of New Jersey, with the Jets agreeing Tuesday to contracts with three players: wide receivers Jamison Crowder and Josh Bellamy, and linebacker C.J. Mosley. The team also will re-sign cornerback Darryl Roberts and defensive end Henry Anderson.

But the big news came when the Jets and Bell agreed on a deal. ESPN first reported the signing, saying the contract is for four years and $52.5 million.

AP

New York Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham (13) runs away with the ball during the second half of an NFL football game against the Atlanta Falcons, Monday, Oct. 22, 2018, in Atlanta.

The deal gives new coach Adam Gase and second-year quarterback Sam Darnold a big-time playmaker, arguably the best player at his position before Bell opted to sit out all of last season rather than sign a franchise tender with Pittsburgh.

Bell has rushed for 5,336 yards and 35 touchdowns, and has 312 catches for 2,660 yards and seven scores as one of the most versatile and dangerous offensive players in the NFL.

"I'm back in the green baby," the former Michigan State star wrote on Twitter. "Let's get it."

It streamed out of Green Bay, with the Packers getting deals with edge rusher Za'Darius Smith, linebacker Preston Smith, safety Adrian Amos and offensive lineman Billy Turner. The Packers also cut veteran linebacker Nick Perry.

And it poured out of Oakland once more when the Raiders kept their vault open and agreed to a four-year contract with safety Lamarcus Joyner . The Raiders previously made big moves on offense by trading for Brown and agreeing to a deal with tackle Trent Brown.

Given the "legal tampering" freedom the league now allows for two days, well, let Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta describe the mayhem.

"Unfortunately for us, the market is irrational at times and we can't be held responsible for what other teams want to pay," DeCosta said. "All we can do is try to negotiate in good faith with agents and the players."

The Jets had more than $82.5 million to spend in free agency, and they are spending it. They thought they also had an agreement with Vikings linebacker Anthony Barr, but he opted instead to return to Minnesota.

Not that the Jets fell short in adding talent. The 26-year-old Mosley is a four-time Pro Bowl linebacker who will get a reported five years and $85 million, including a whopping $51 million guaranteed. Mosley has had at least 100 tackles in every season but 2016, when he missed two games with an injury and finished with 92. He will be a centerpiece of new defensive coordinator Gregg Williams' unit.

In dire need of receivers for Darnold, New York is adding the 26-year-old Crowder as a playmaking slot receiver. Crowder, whose deal reportedly is for three years and $28.5 million, had 221 catches for 2,628 yards and 14 touchdowns in four seasons with Washington. He was limited to nine games last season because of an ankle injury.

Bellamy has 76 career catches for 999 yards and five touchdowns, and is also a special teams contributor. He spent the last five years with Chicago.

Free agency has been a boon to NFL

DENVER (AP)—The National Football League's annual free agency frenzy officially begins Wednesday, just 39 days after Tom Brady won another Super Bowl and 44 days before Commissioner Roger Goodell takes the stage in Nashville to announce the first overall pick in the 2019 NFL draft.

Le'Veon Bell, Nick Foles, C.J. Mosley and Landon Collins are among this year's headliners cashing in during the 27th year of unfettered free agency, a system that emerged after a Minneapolis federal court ruled in 1992 that the Plan B free agency system of protecting 37 players on a team violated antitrust laws.

A lawyer for the league, Frank Rothman, warned in closing arguments that a verdict for the players could mean "the destruction of the National Football League that we know today."

Modern free agency indeed laid waste to the old way of doing business.

Yet, what rose in its place has been a godsend to the NFL, which is celebrating its 100th season this year. The NFL wouldn't be the gigantic force it is in society and sports today without free agency empowering players with freedom and endowing long-suffering franchises and their fans with hope.

"I think free agency's been great for the game for a lot of reasons," said Joe Horrigan, executive director of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. "Look at us, we have a whole season now for the fan. It's keeping the NFL front of mind 24/7, seven days a week, 365 days a year."

Without free agency, the Green Bay Packers wouldn't have returned to glory in the 1990s; the second chapter of Peyton Manning's magnificent career might have gone unwritten; the New Orleans Saints wouldn't have been able to parade the Lombardi Trophy down Bourbon Street; and Deion Sanders might not have earned two nicknames and two Super Bowl rings, one in San Francisco and another in Dallas.

Federal judge David Doty threatened to implement his own plan if team owners and the players' union couldn't agree on a free agency system following the league's loss in court in 1992.

What finally won over the hardliner owners was the inclusion of a franchise tag and the coupling of a salary cap to control costs. The first salary cap was $34.6 million in 1994. Now, it's $188.2 million.

The most significant free agent signing in NFL history occurred when the new system went into effect in the 1993 offseason: Reggie White chose Green Bay in a shocker that shifted the balance of power in the NFL and foretold free agency's boom and boon.

"What was beautiful about that was everybody was fearful of free agency, fearful that all the best teams would stockpile all the greatest players and they'd all go to one place," Horrigan said. "Well, the salary cap that came with free agency prevented that, No. 1. But then Reggie to Green Bay kind of suggested that the system was good for all."

White teamed with Brett Favre to lead the Packers' resurgence that ended a 30-year title drought.

Manning's arrival in Denver two decades later also transformed a franchise that was far removed from its glory days.

After missing the 2011 season with a neck injury, Manning was cut loose by the Colts, who were turning to Andrew Luck. The Broncos won the Manning sweepstakes, which made it easier for general manager John Elway to lure other free agents such as DeMarcus Ware, Emmanuel Sanders, Aqib Talib and T.J. Ward, the emotional backbone of the team that won Super Bowl 50 in Manning's farewell.

Somebody asked Elway at the introductory news conference what he would have done had Manning turned him down.

"Plan B?" replied Elway. "We don't have a Plan B. We're going with Plan A."

Sort of like the NFL had to do when the players decertified their union three decades ago and took the league to court in the face of long-standing fierce opposition to free agency.

"The pushback was huge, going back to 1969 and '70 with owners and labor-player management," former commissioner Paul Tagliabue said.

The issue led to the 1987 players strike and owners' infamous use of replacement players.

Ronaldo's hat trick sends Juventus into CL quarters

TURIN, Italy (AP)—Cristiano Ronaldo scored his first hat trick for Juventus to send the club into the Champions League quarterfinals with a 3-0 win over Atletico Madrid on Tuesday as the Italian side fought back from a two-goal first-leg defeat.

Ronaldo netted from open play in each half and then converted a late penalty as Juventus advanced 3-2 on aggregate, ending Atletico's hopes of reaching the final in its Wanda Metropolitano Stadium.

It was Ronaldo's eighth hat trick in the competition, moving him level with Barcelona's Lionel Messi and demonstrating why Juventus paid Real Madrid 112 million euros (then $131.5 million) for the Portugal star who has dominated the competition in recent years.

Ronaldo is looking for a fourth straight Champions League title, while Madrid was eliminated without him by Ajax last week.

It was the first time Juventus came back from a two-goal defeat in the first leg.

"Maybe that's why Juventus signed me," Ronaldo said. "To help it do things that it had never done before. This result is a great push for the future, we're strong and we showed it."

Juventus thought it had taken the lead less than three minutes into the game but VAR confirmed that Ronaldo had fouled Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak before Giorgio Chiellini fired in the rebound.

Italy forward Federico Bernardeschi was handed a start instead of Paulo Dybala for Juventus, and he responded by putting in a cross from the left for Ronaldo to head in at the far post in the 27th minute. Bernardeschi also had several chances to extend Juve's lead—notably with an audacious overhead kick in the 35th minute that flew narrowly over.

Ronaldo went close again shortly before halftime when he again outjumped everyone but headed Leonardo Spinazzola's cross wide of the right post.

Ronaldo did get the second goal three minutes after the break. Joao Cancelo put in a cross from the right and although Oblak clawed Ronaldo's header out from under his crossbar, goal-line technology confirmed the ball had crossed the line.

Juventus went all out attack and got the decisive third goal four minutes from time. Bernardeschi was nudged over in the penalty area and Ronaldo converted the resulting spot kick to send the home fans wild.

AP

Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo scores his side's third goal from the penalty spot during the Champions League round of 16, 2nd leg, soccer match between Juventus and Atletico Madrid at the Allianz stadium in Turin, Italy, Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

Manchester 10, Schalke 2

In England, a record-tying victory in the last 16 and a quarterfinal lineup lacking at least three of Europe's top teams suggests this just might be Manchester City's year in the Champions League.

No matter how much Pep Guardiola protests to the contrary.

With a 7-0 thrashing of Schalke on Tuesday that completed a 10-2 aggregate victory, City eased into the last eight of European soccer's most prestigious competition for the third time in four seasons and confirmed its status as one of the favorites— whatever Guardiola might be saying in public.

Even if history is not on their side—Guardiola recently called City a "teenage" side that is "still not ready to fight for the latter stages"—the form of his players certainly is.

Make that 61 goals in 18 games in 2019, with only eight conceded. Perhaps more extraordinarily, it was the seventh time that City has scored six or more goals in a game this season.

"This club, the best success in the history (in the Champions League) is a semifinal, compared to Real Madrid with 13 (titles). Or Barcelona, Liverpool, Juventus, who have how many? Six, seven, eight?" Guardiola said. "It is why when the people say, 'You have to win, you have to win,' when you are out in the quarterfinals it is a disaster. It is not fair."

But City and Guardiola, the man brought in at huge expense so the Abu Dhabi-backed club can finally conquer Europe, are running out of excuses.

City has arguably its deepest and most talented squad ever. Paris Saint-Germain and titleholder Real Madrid are already out. One of Bayern Munich and Liverpool will be eliminated. Barcelona still has it all to do against Lyon on Wednesday, with the teams locked at 0-0 after the first leg.

There is no denying it has opened up for City.

Certainly Schalke was in no shape to stop Guardiola's side.

This season's round of 16 has featured some memorable comebacks so far— notably from Ajax and Manchester United last week—but Schalke's chances of overturning a 3-2 first-leg deficit virtually disappeared when Sergio Aguero chipped home a 35th-minute penalty to make it 1-0 in the second leg at Etihad Stadium.

NL Rookie of Year Acuna looking forward to opening day

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP)—When Ronald Acuna Jr. got back to the Atlanta Braves' clubhouse after getting his third hit of the game, Freddie Freeman acted surprised.

"You should have kept going," Freeman told him, "and gone for the cycle."

Acuna went 3 for 3 with a long home run and double off St. Louis opening day starter Miles Mikolas in Atlanta's 5-0 exhibition win Tuesday. It was the kind of performance the Braves have come to expect from the 2018 NL Rookie of the Year, and the kind of day Acuna expects from himself.

Good enough that former Braves great Dale Murphy sheepishly asked Acuna for his autograph, demonstrating the stature the 21-year-old outfielder has achieved after less than a full season in the big leagues.

"I've felt good from the day we started camp, but as the games progressed I've felt even better," he said through a translator. "I think with these last at-bats, just a little extra patience has gone into it. I've had good at-bats even if the results weren't what we would have wanted, but things are progressing quickly and we kind of see the results now."

Acuna hit .293 with 26 home runs in 111 games last year, helping the Braves win the NL East after four straight losing seasons. His three homers are among nine hits in 25 at-bats this spring.

The Braves open the season March 28 at Philadelphia. Last year, Acuna was not brought up to the majors until April 25.

"I've been anxious for the season to start since we got here to camp. I've felt ready, I've been wanting this to happen," he said. "When the season starts is out of my control. All I can control is how I go about my business."

Acuna led off 66 times as a rookie and subtly suggested early in spring training that batting first is his preference. But he has batted fourth most of the time this spring, including Tuesday, behind Ender Inciarte, Josh Donaldson and Freeman.

"The mentality is the same for me—see the ball, hit the ball," he said. "As long as I'm in the lineup, I'm happy. Those decisions aren't up to me."

Acuna figures to be in the Atlanta lineup for a while.

"It's an impressive set of skills," observed Braves coach Walt Weiss. "The power and the speed combo is elite. He's not just a power guy. I think he's going to be a really good hitter his whole career, and when he gets rolling it's fun to watch."

Meanwhile, Yankees lefthander CC Sabathia threw 20 pitches Tuesday during his first batting practice session since a heart procedure in December.

Sabathia, expected to miss his first two or three regular-season starts, is slated to throw a simulated game Saturday.

The 38-year-old, who is retiring after the season, had a stent inserted Dec. 11 after a blockage was found in an artery from his heart. He has had chronic right knee problems that required several operations.

"He's really responded well to everything," Yankee manager Aaron Boone said. "He's doing well."

Sabathia also is suspended for five games for hitting Tampa Bay's catcher Jesus Sucre with a pitch on Sept. 27.

The 2007 AL Cy Young Award winner with Cleveland, Sabathia is 246-153 with a 3.70 ERA and 2,986 strikeouts in 18 major league seasons. He was 9-7 with a 3.65 ERA in 29 starts last season. This will be his 11th year with the Yankees.

Center fielder Aaron Hicks, who hurt his back during batting practice March 1, got a cortisone shot Monday. Boone said there is still enough time for Hicks to be ready for opening day.

"There's a level of concern but I'm not too worried about it," Boone said.

Tebow reassigned to minor league camp

Tim Tebow has been reassigned to minor league camp by the New York Mets after hitting .267 with one RBI in eight spring training games.

The 31-year-old outfielder attended big league camp for the second straight year and is expected to start the season at Triple-A Syracuse. The 2007 Heisman Trophy winner for 4 for 15 with no extra-base hits in 18 plate appearances during spring training.

Tebow batted .273 with six home runs, 14 doubles and 36 RBIs in 84 games for Double-A Binghamton last year.

New York also optioned right-handers Paul Sewald and Jacob Rhame to Syracuse on Tuesday and re-assigned right-hander Arquimedes Caminero, infielder Andres Gimenez, infielder Dilson Herrera, outfielder Rymer Liriano and catcher Ali Sanchez to minor league camp.

Lakers top Bulls to snap five-game losing skid

CHICAGO (AP)— Less than a week after passing Michael Jordan for fourth on the NBA's career scoring list, LeBron James delivered a memorable night at the arena Jordan first made famous.

James had 36 points and 10 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers overcame a 20-point deficit to beat the Chicago Bulls 123-107 on Tuesday night and end a five-game losing streak.

James played 33 minutes and showed no signs of letting up with the Lakers barely hanging on in the playoff race. He took over after the Lakers' 14-point lead was cut to four with 8:38 left, making a jumper and then on the next possession going through the lane for a thunderous dunk.

James didn't stop there, hitting a 3-pointer over 7-footer Robin Lopez and capping it off when Josh Hart passed the ball off the backboard to James, who finished with a reverse dunk to put the Lakers up 115-101 with 5 minutes remaining.

James was asked if he had any special thoughts returning to the United Center.

"Not really, but I definitely recognize the greatness Mike had in this city," James said. "Pretty much every time I play here I look up at the rafters, look up at the jersey retired and then when the starting lineups come up, when I was a kid watching that starting lineup watching the Bulls run through the city and Jordan's name and number getting called, I always have that feeling."

It was James' highest-scoring game since Dec. 18.

Kyle Kuzma added 21 points after missing two games with an ankle injury. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 24 points off the bench for the Lakers, who outscored the Bulls 43-24 in the third quarter.

Lopez had 20 points and seven rebounds, and Otto Porter Jr. finished with 19 for the Bulls.

With Lonzo Ball and Brandon Ingram ruled out for the season, James put on a show at United Center like he did so many times as a member of the Cavaliers and Heat.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) goes for a dunk against the against the Chicago Bulls during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 12, 2019, in Chicago.

Bucks 130, Pelicans 113

In New Orleans, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 24 points and Milwaukee used a 45-point third quarter to pull away from New Orleans.

Khris Middleton had 23 points, Malcolm Brogdon added 18, and Eric Bledsoe and former Pelicans forward Nikola Mirotic each scored 14 for the Bucks. Brook Lopez finished with 13.

Elfrid Payton had his second consecutive triple-double for the Pelicans, finishing with 14 points, a career-high 15 rebounds and 11 assists. He is the first New Orleans player to have a triple-double in consecutive games since Chris Paul in 2008.

76ers 106, Cavaliers 99

In Philadelphia, Ben Simmons scored 26 points, Joel Embiid had 19 rebounds and made some big plays down the stretch, as the 76ers held off Cleveland.

Collin Sexton led the Cavaliers with 26 points, including a layup with 3:10 left that pulled Cleveland within one. Cedi Osman added 18 and put the Cavs ahead 97-96 with under 3 minutes to go as boos rained down in Philly.

But Mike Scott responded with a 3-pointer to put the 76ers back ahead. And after Simmons made a free throw and Jordan Clarkson a layup for Cleveland, Embiid followed his own miss with a thunderous dunk to give the Sixers a 102-99 lead with under a minute left.

Spurs 112, Mavericks 105

In Dallas, DeMar DeRozan scored 33 points, LaMarcus Aldridge added 28 and San Antonio beat the Mavericks.

DeRozan and Aldridge had identical 11-for-19 shooting lines from the field and combined to go 17 of 17 from the foul line. The Spurs led from the middle of the first quarter on in winning their sixth in a row. Dallas lost its sixth straight and 11th in 12 games.

Derrick White added 23 points and seven assists for San Antonio.

Pacers 103, Knicks 98

In Indianapolis, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 24 points and Darren Collison made two free throws 19.5 seconds left to help Indiana slip past New York.

Indiana snapped its two-game losing streak and remained tied with Philadelphia for the No. 3 spot in the Eastern Conference. Collison finished with 16 points.

New York lost its seventh straight despite getting 21 points from Emmanuel Mudiay and 18 from Damyean Dotson.

Trail Blazers 125, Clippers 104

In Los Angeles, CJ McCollum scored 35 points, Jusuf Nurkic and Damian Lillard added 20 apiece and Portland snapped the Clippers' five-game winning streak.

McCollum, who was 12 of 21 from the field and made six 3-pointers, took control of the game during the fourth quarter as the Trail Blazers broke things open with a 21-5 run. Portland led 95-94 with 8:50 remaining before going on a 15-3 spurt that included 13 straight points by McCollum, including three 3-pointers.

Nuggets 133, Timberwolves 107

In Denver, Jamal Murray scored 19 of his 30 points in the second half, Mason Plumlee dished out eight of Denver's season-high 40 assists and the Nuggets cruised over banged-up Minnesota.

Paul Millsap finished with 23 points, including a buzzer-beater from half-court to end the third quarter. Nikola Jokic added 18 points, eight rebounds and seven assists to help Denver snap a two-game slide at Pepsi Center.

The Nuggets are hanging on to the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference.

Column: NBA needs to prevent fans from crossing lines

The NBA could be on the doorstep of catastrophe, a repeat of the public-relations disaster from 15 years ago, when the invisible line between fans and athletes was crossed during a massive brawl at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Oklahoma City Thunder star Russell Westbrook got into a heated confrontation with two Utah Jazz fans Monday night while Westbrook was on the bench. Westbrook says he was told by the fan to "get on his knees like he's used to." Westbrook replied in kind, telling the fan, "I'll [expletive] you up, you and your wife," later explaining to the media that both fans issued verbal assaults that caused him to reply.

In February in Denver, Westbrook was hit by a young fan while on the sideline, and Westbrook then lectured the boy, telling him he shouldn't touch people he doesn't know.

It's easy to focus on Westbrook because he's perceived as volatile, and by making a statement about a fan's wife, the lens has turned from what should be the topic and how close we may be to another disaster.

For all the things Westbrook is on the floor, one thing he doesn't appear to be is a liar.

The fan, while feigning ignorance after the game, was found to have multiple tweets insulting Westbrook that date back to the Thunder-Jazz playoff series last spring. Apparently he decided to take it a step further Monday night, and it resulted in a lifetime ban from the Utah Jazz.

But that ban is a Band-Aid on the growing tensions between fan and athlete, illustrating how close we truly are to a confrontation that could rival the "Malice in the Palace"—the brawl that took place during an Indiana Pacers-Detroit Pistons game on Nov. 19, 2004.

Heckling happens, and professionals are usually astute enough to tell the difference between the usual comments fans make and the ones fans wouldn't dare say to a 6-foot-5 stranger on the street.

So much has appeared to change from that Friday night in November when a cup hit Indiana Pacers star Ron Artest—now known as Metta World Peace—resulting in Artest sprinting behind the scorer's table to confront the fan before all hell broke loose.

Then-commissioner David Stern came down with a heavy hand, issuing suspensions and fines the league hasn't seen since, and a dress code eventually followed in an attempt to change perceptions about the players.

Regardless of the undertones and backlash from the incident, the league's efforts to repair its image worked, and there are now likable players whose Q ratings are at all-time highs.

Even one-time instigator Stephen Jackson, who ran into the stands that night, once diffused a situation with an unruly fan with humor during a stoppage at Auburn Hills several years later.

Jackson realized what he had to lose wasn't worth it and he took the high road, which Utah Jazz players did in the aftermath of the Westbrook incident.

Second-year star Donovan Mitchell issued a thoughtful statement to several media outlets Tuesday, playing peacemaker while admitting, "This is not the first time something like this has happened in our arena."

The NBA, by sheer proximity, offers the best fan experience of the four major sports. The players don't wear helmets or equipment to shield their faces from the fans. And oftentimes, paying the price of admission gives one a front-row seat at human emotion at its rawest form: When competition meets concentration and stakes, a fan can witness unparalleled brilliance, inspiration or even history.

But the price of admission doesn't allow participation from the customers, and the league must do a better job of defining the line that isn't to be crossed—no matter how much the ticket is.

Saipan Marathon shows growth potential

Saipan Marathon 2019 was the largest ever, showing continued growth potential for an event that attracted 1,063 registrants from13 countries and territories around the world.

Japan runner and 40-year-old Yoshiyuki Ono led the men's division full marathon finishers with his 2:38:22 and was followed by Taku Fujiwara (2:39:39), also of Japan and Meisong Ji (2:44:13) of China. In the women's division, Natsuko Muramatsu (3:28:25) also gave Japan a first place finish, while Saipan residents Kaylee Heath (3:32:39) Heather Taylor (3:41:39) rounded out the Top 3.

"What an incredible Saipan Marathon 2019!" Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion said. "When Saipan Marathon started 14 years ago, we had only 33 participants in the full marathon. Now, thanks to the outstanding support of our many partners and sponsors in both the public and private sectors, we have a race that attracts runners from around the world and is setting new records in The Marianas. Our marathon is now certified by the International Association of Athletic Federations and the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races which adds to its prestige. Overall, Saipan Marathon has great growth potential as an annual signature event of the MVA."

Top honors in the half marathon went to China's You Jun Jie (1:16:34) and Jia Yang (1:25:40). Genta Saito (1:16:38) of Japan finished hot on the heels of Jie, with 16-year-old Yungfeng Huang (1:17:47) of China placing third. Following Yan in the women's division were Yang Fei We (1:33:06) of China and Sunok Hwang (1:33:21) of Korea.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jiawen Feng, left, and Hui Li run their way past a historic World War II tank during last Saturday's Saipan Marathon 2019.

In the 10K, Keith Longuski (37:58) of The Marianas edged out JeYong Yu (38:04) of Korea in the men's division, while ChongHao Zheng (38:48) came in at third. Korea took first place in the women's division with Sonmi Yoon recording 42:40, while Tania Tan (46:38) and Ayano Braxton (47:36), both of The Marianas, completed the Top 3.

Overall, 990 runners were at starting line for the race, including 567 for the 10K, 300 for the half marathon, and 123 for the full marathon. Participants included 373 runners from The Marianas and the U.S, 294 from mainland China, 283 from South Korea, and 67 from Japan, while others came from Guam, Russia, Philippines, Germany, Macau, Malaysia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

The exclusive sponsors of this year's marathon were Skechers, Powerade, and Northern Marianas Athletics. Platinum sponsors were IT&E, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Joint Marketing, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. Gold sponsors are Fiesta Resort & Spa, Royal Travel, Saipan Computer Services, Saipan Apparel, and T Galleria by DFS. Silver sponsors Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Deen International, The Athlete's Foot, Boarderline, All Star Sporting Goods, Skydive Saipan, Tokyo Jusen, Subway/Foremost/Coca-Cola, Joteten Shopping Center, Real Estate Transaction Specialist Igawa Office, and LJ's Lawn and Care.

Aid stations were manned by Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Development Inc., Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort, Coca-Cola/Foremost, Pacific Islands Club, Imperial Pacific Int'l CNMI, IT&E, Aqua Resort Club, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Tasi Tours Transportation, Saipan World Resort, Mt. Carmel School, and Marianas Base Camp.

Supporting agencies, companies, and individuals were American Memorial Park, Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Div. of Parks and Grounds, Dept. of Public Works, Dept. of Public Lands, Saipan Mayor's Office and Dog Control Program, Hawaiian Rock Products, Marianas Health Services, Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera, and Miss Earth contestants. ***(PR)***

MPU

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advantage. Jaydee Jose also had a brace in the first half with his goals in the fifth and 12th minute, while Sean Gil, Brian Lubao, and Merrick Toves added one each after lighting up the board in the ninth, 33rd, and 34th, respectively.

Gil also hit his target in the second half (51st), while Kanoa-1's last two goals were registered in the next two minutes with Markus notching his third goal in the 52nd and Andrew Sablan bagging his first in the 53rd.

Meanwhile, Shirley's barged into the win column after edging Matansa, 1-0.

Gabriel Arkoh Jr. delivered the lone goal in the match, as he eluded his defender and knocked one in in the 25th minute.

CO-ED U12A DIVISION
Kanoa 9, Shirley's 0

Kanoa is also ahead in the co-ed U12A division standings after dominating Shirley's.

Paul Lizama was unstoppable for Kanoa, drilling four goals. He completed a hat trick right in the first half after scoring in the 17th, 23rd, and 28th to hand Kanoa a 4-0 lead. Rooney Gil posted Kanoa's other goal in the first half, putting their squad on the board in the 10th minute.

Then in the second half, another Kanoa player recorded a hat trick with Taehun Han converting his shots in the 43rd, 50th, and 57th minute. Lizama added one goal in the 56th minute, while Izeah Jolo wrapped things up for Kanoa with his goal in the 58th.

TanHoldings 5, MP United 3

In the other division match, TanHoldings earned its first win after downing MP United.

Morico Clarides and Mark Ryan Costales partnered in giving TanHoldings the victory after making two goals apiece. Clarides delivered his pair in the 12th and 29th minute, while Costales got his first in the 20th for TanHoldings' shaky lead at halftime 3-2.

MP United remained in contention after the opening frame, thanks to William and Xavier Lee's goals in the eighth and 18th minute, respectively. However, MP United failed to overhaul the deficit, as only Ian Song scored for the squad in the second half (38th minute), while Costales added one more in the 47th minute and Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez hit the board earlier in the 35th.

AYUYUS

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12 second-period points, but Blake and company remained on the driver's seat at the break, 28-23.

After the Torchbearers stayed close to Kagman in the first half, the Ayuyus switched strategies in the second half and relied heavily on their reserves' fresh legs to worn down Agape's starters. The benchwarmers did not disappoint and the Kagman's' variety of lineup combinations helped them widen the gap against the Torchbearers.

Mustafa Augustino and Lifoifoi led the Ayuyus' balance attack, as they finished with 13 and 10 points respectively. Blake added 9 points, J.D. Magofna made 8, and Henry Aguon chipped in 6 points.

Xiong top-scored for Agape with his 22 points and clearly missed the support of his teammates.

With the victory, the Ayuyus improved their record to a league-best 10-1, while the Torchbearers fell to a 5-3 card. Agape ceded the No. 3 spot to Mount Carmel School (6-3) after the loss.

Meanwhile at the Koblerville Gymnasium, Saipan Southern High School roared past Agape 2, 91-34.

Glen Matalog led the way for the Manta Rays with his 16 points, while Adi Ordona and Clarenz Contreras contributed 12 apiece. Christopher Lagmay and Jesstin Laniyo also finished in double digits for Saipan Southern with 10 points each.

Qi paced Agape 2 with his 12 markers, while Daniel Dai finished with 8 points.

The Manta Rays now hold an 8-1 record, while Agape 2 has yet to win after 10 matches.

In the second game at the Koblerville Gymnasium, MCS 2 clobbered Grace Christian Academy, 67-45.

With the win, Knights 2 (3-7) leapfrogged the Eagles (3-8) for the No. 6 spot in the team standings.

Regular season games in the league will continue tomorrow with Agape 1 and 2 squaring off at their court in Gualo Rai, Kagman hosting MCS 2, and Saipan Southern battling MCS 1 at Koblerville Gymnasium.

KHS 58—M. Augustino 13, Lifoifoi 10, Blake 9, Magofna 8, Aguon 6, Quitano 4, P. Augustino 2, Blas 2, Cruz 2, Reyes 2.

ACS 1 43—Xiong 22, Xu 7, Yang 6, Wang 4, Chen 2, Shao 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-11, 28-23, 42-31, 58-43.

TENNIS

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national Tennis Federation/ Confederation of African Tennis Regional Training Centre and play in several high-level tournaments. She recently played in the 2019 Australian Open Juniors and is currently ranked No. 168 in the world.

"We have a strong team. The CNMI have never won a medal in the tennis tournament in the Pacific Game, but I think this year, we have a pretty good chance," Race said.

The CNMI Hall of Famer added that seven players are trying out for the four slots on the men's squad and they are training as a group three times a week. Players also hold their own training sessions.

As for the CNMI National Golf Team, player-coach Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho said that this year's group is the most prepared crew ever assembled.

"I've played for the national team many times and I could proudly say that this squad is the most prepared one," said Camacho, who led a series of qualifiers mid last year and made the selection in the first month of 2019.

The veteran will be teaming up with junior golfers Edward Lee and Sebastian Camacho and perennial local tournament winners Ryan Kim and J.J. Atalig. Also on the squad is alternate and another veteran—Tony Satur.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Robbie Schorr is one of the players hoping to represent the CNMI in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

Sebastian Camacho and Lee will be competing in a high-level tournament in the Philippines later this month as part of their preparations for the Pacific Games. When they return to Saipan, Sebastian, Lee, and Joe, which will accompany the two junior golfers in the Philippines, will rejoin their teammates in their four times a week training sessions.

Giants trade Beckham to Browns, Jets get Bell

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Sports

Lakers top Bulls to snap five-game losing skid

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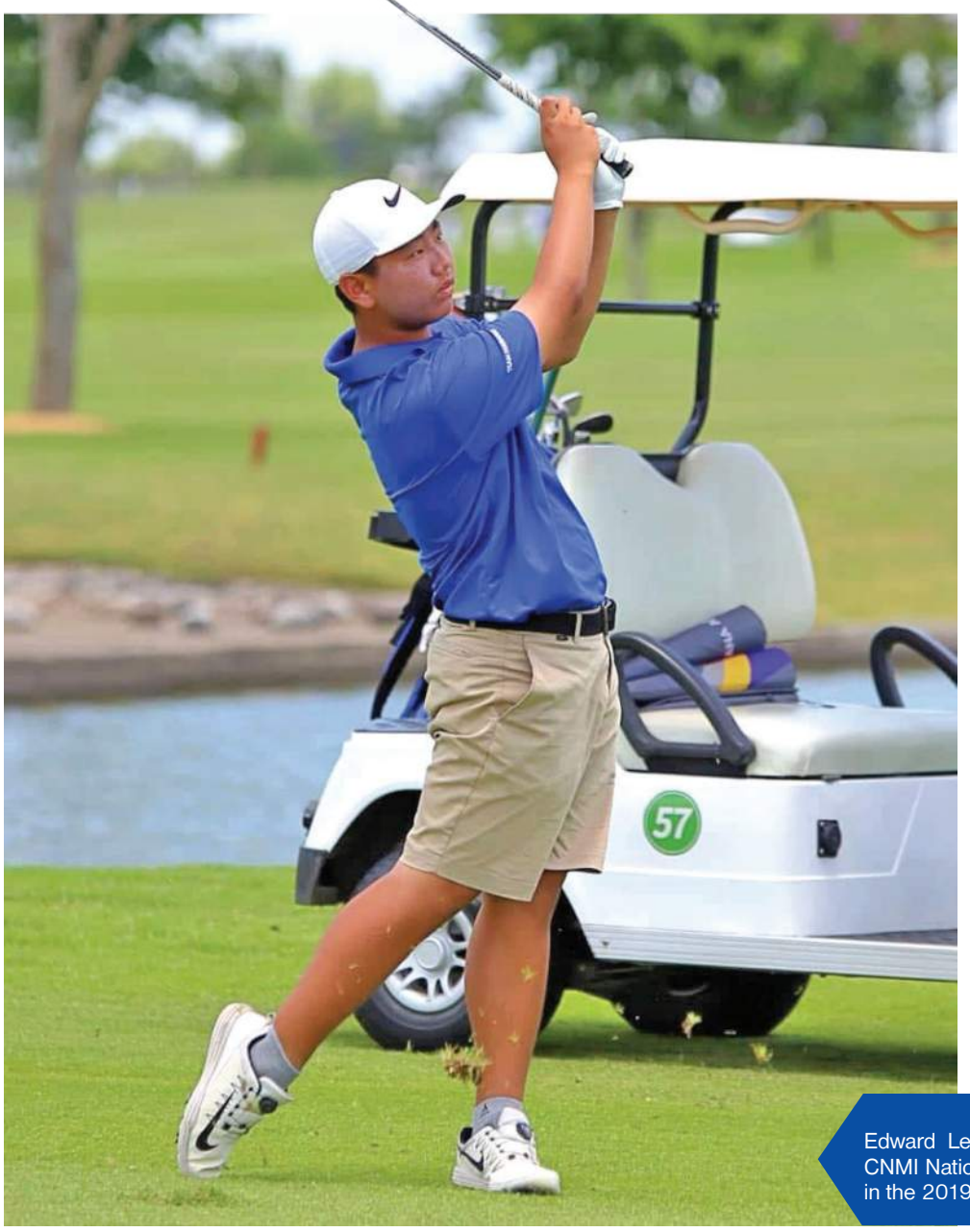
Tennis, golf tout squads



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Edward Lee is part of the well-prepared CNMI National Golf Team that will compete in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI can count on a strong tennis team and a well-prepared golf squad in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association official and coach Jeff Race, during the Northern Marianas Sports Association monthly meeting last week, said they will have a strong team for the quadrennial meet that will be held from July 7 to 20, as the squad will be led by two players who are doing well in international tournaments.

NMITA has yet to name its men's and women's squads, but Colin Sinclair and Carol Lee, who are competing in the ITF Circuit (Pro and Juniors, respectively), are considered as shoe-ins. Sinclair is the highest-ranked Pacific player (ranked as high as No. 69) in the World ITF and early this month, he won his first pro title in California. He continues to join world-ranking tournaments while waiting for the competition in Samoa.

Lee, on the other hand, is in Morocco to train at the Inter-

See TENNIS on Page 27

Ayuyus overwhelm Torchbearers

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Kagman High School's Kobe Lifoifoi escapes past an Agape Christian School 1 defender for an open layup during their game in CCOPSA caging yesterday in Kagman.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Kagman High School outclassed Agape Christian School 1, 58-43, in the boys division game in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League yesterday at the Ayuyus court.

The Torchbearers kept the Ayuyus within striking distance in the first half before the host team showed dominance in the second for the double-digit win.

Kagman and Agape 1 engaged in a back-and-forth slugfest in the first quarter that ended with the Ayuyus ahead by only a deuce, 13-11. Silas Xu drew first blood with a 3-pointer for Agape 1, but Kagman captain Dean Blake countered with an and-1 play. The opposing teams kept trading baskets in the opening period with Blake having the last say, as he made a fastbreak layup that put the Ayuyus on top.

The Ayuyus and Torchbearers continued to match each other's efforts in the second period, as Mustafa Augustino netted 7 points for Kagman, while Jonathan Xiong fired back with four baskets for Agape. Xiong scored 8 out of their team's

See AYUYUS on Page 27

Back-to-back for Kanoa-1, MPU

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club-1 and MP United Football Club notched their second win in as many games after topping their respective opponents in the boys U15 division of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

MP United was the first team to hit victory No. 2 after outclassing TanHoldings FC, 3-1, in the opener in Week 2. Richard Steele lifted MP United to the win after registering a pair of goals. His conversion in the 12th minute gave MP United a 1-0 halftime lead, while he got his second goal in the 51st minute. Jeremiah Diaz made the other goal for MP United in the second half when he scored in the 43rd minute.

TanHoldings' lone goal in the match was posted in the second half, but the name of the scorer was not indicated in the match report.

With the victory over TanHoldings, MP United gained a share of the lead with Kanoa-1, which eased its way to a 10-1 triumph over Kanoa-2 in the final game in the division last weekend.

Markus Toves stood out in Kanoa-1's lopsided win after making a hat trick. He scored his first two in the opening half (32nd and 33rd minute), allowing his team to blow the game wide open with an 8-0

See MPU on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Kanoa Football Club-2 player, center, is pressured by two Kanoa FC-1 defenders during their boys U15 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.